

ALONG THE LINES



DEDICATED TO SAFELY PROVIDING RELIABLE SERVICE TO OUR MEMBERS.

JULY 2026

VOL.19, NO. 7

**FROM POWERPLANT
TO COFFEEPOT**

pg. 2

**ANNUAL MEETING
RECAP**

pg. 4

**NEWSLETTER TO
MAGAZINE**

pgs. 5

JULY CALENDAR



July is National Fireworks Safety Month

July 3: MJM's Office is Closed

July 4: Independence Day (250th year)

July 15: National Pet Fire Safety Day

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



FROM POWERPLANT TO COFFEEPOT: The Energy Journey



MJM PRESIDENT/CEO, JOE HEYEN

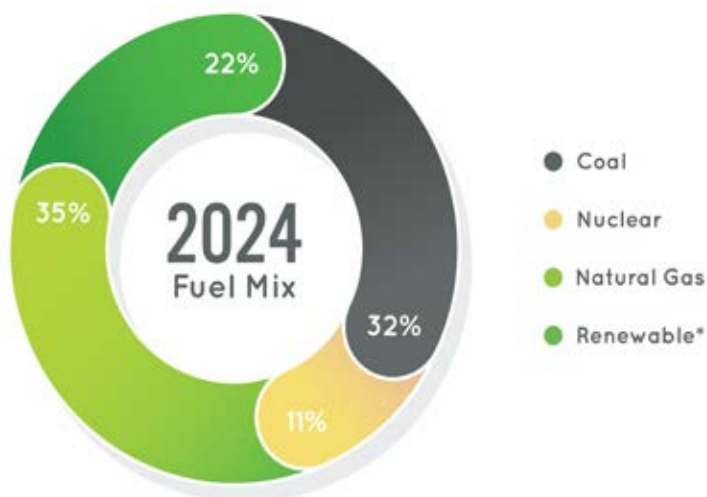


Co-ops collaborate to meet changing demands and deliver power. Few people ponder the electricity powering their coffemaker as they pour that first morning cup. For those at your local electric co-op, it's nearly all they think about.

Meeting the demand for electricity is complex and has grown more challenging as policy, technology, and weather create new possibilities and peril. Fortunately, your local electric cooperative partners with its wholesale power provider — its generation and transmission cooperative — to ensure needs can be met all day, every day. Wabash Valley Power Alliance serves a total of 21 electric distribution co-ops in Illinois and Indiana.

Electricity demand constantly changes — at various times during the day and even throughout the year. Less electricity is consumed overnight while people sleep, for instance, compared to afternoons when families return home after school and work and turn on televisions, stoves, and other appliances. Energy demand is higher in the summer and winter, when air conditioning and heating are frequently used, compared to the milder fall and spring months.

Wabash Valley Power Alliance's Fuel Mix as of 2024:



Electricity is generated by a variety of resources, underscoring the need to plan appropriately. Power plants such as coal, natural gas, and some hydroelectric dams are dispatchable power plants that generate electricity year-round. Resources such as solar energy and wind turbines are intermittent resources; they depend on external factors that cannot be controlled, such as sunlight or wind, to generate power.

Intermittent resources are a good supplement to the energy grid but require careful planning. During Illinois winters, solar panels do not produce nearly as much electricity as on clear summer days, while wind turbines generate more electricity in the winter than in summer.

That's where dispatchable plants are invaluable; they can be brought online to increase or decrease power generation to meet fluctuating demand.

Electricity generators develop a portfolio with diverse resources to ensure that demand can be met 365 days a year. Electric distribution co-ops and generation and transmission cooperatives collaborate to ensure that they have the energy needed to power the communities they serve throughout their day — every day.

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

CHAIRMAN: Todd Stewart..... District 8
VICE CHAIRMAN: Charles Huebener..... District 3
SECRETARY: Marcie Tonsor..... District 9
TREASURER: 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

MJM Along the Lines (USPS 854-620) is published monthly for \$4.75 per year, per member by MJM Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 80, Carlinville, Illinois 62626. Second-class postage paid at Carlinville, IL. POSTMASTER: Send Address changes to MJM Along the Lines, P.O. Box 80, Carlinville, IL 62626.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

IN THIS ISSUE

- 4 Annual Meeting Recap**
Photos and stats from the June 11th, 2026 Meeting.
- 5 Newsletter to Magazine**
MJM Along the Lines joining Illinois Country Living Magazine!
- 7 Safety and Savings**
Summer Efficiency and Safety Tips.



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

SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE
WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE, OR GO TO:

MJMEC.COOP/SMARTHUB-HELP

SIGN UP FOR AUTO PAY:

Recurring Payments from Checking Accounts, Savings Accounts, Credit Cards, or Debit Cards - The payment will equal the account's net amount due on the day it is drafted, which is the 15th of each month. Unless otherwise stated on your bill. This payment option is available by signing up through SmartHub, online, or contacting MJM at 217-707-6156.

MJM accepts Visa, Discover, and MasterCard payments. If you are signing up a debit or credit card, you must sign up online.

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.

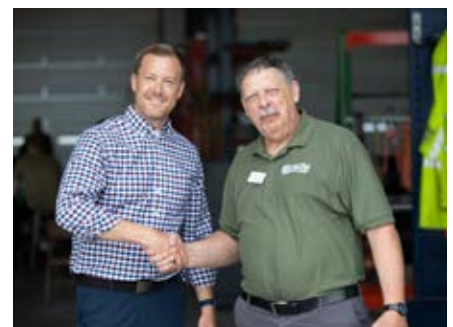
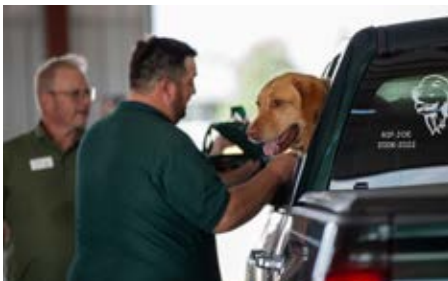
2026 ANNUAL MEETING RECAP



Thank you to the **394** MJM members that attended this year's Annual Meeting on June 11th, 2026! Another big thank you goes to the Pork Producers for helping MJM serve **750** meals this year!

Voting Results: Leann Barr - District 4, Frank Welling - District 5, and Jim Niemann - District 7 (187 votes out of 277 total).

Officers: Chairman, Todd Stewart - District 8. Vice-Chairman, Charles Huebener - District 3. Treasurer, Tyler Heyen - District 6. Secretary, Marcie Tonsor - District 9.



MEMBER TRADING POST

FOR SALE: 2018 Honda Pioneer 700. 2,750 miles, 470 hours, adult ridden. \$8,500. Call 217-741-8673

FOR SALE: Duncan Pfyfe vintage, green painted drop leaf table, \$200; 1996 Chevy S10, ext.cab, 2.2, 4 cylinder, green, manual shift, 2nd owner of 19 years. All records. Runs great, has cosmetic issues. \$2,550. 2002 VW Golf, 169,000 2 owner mi. Four door. White. Manual shift. Gas 2.0. Good AC. All records, I bought from original owner. \$2,550. 217-710-5614

FOR SALE: Walker deluxe with detachable tray, like new, \$45. Bedside commode or toilet chair with handles, like new, \$40. Carlinville area. Call: 314-825-1200

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

FOR SALE: Ascend (deep red w/black color), sit-on-top fishing kayak with 3 rod holders. Has paddle and padded seat. Bought at Scheels. Field and Stream (royal blue) sit-in kayak with straight-tracking keel. Has paddle and padded seat. Bought at Dick's Sporting Goods. Both bought new, in very good condition, used 3-4 times on Otter Lake only. \$100 each or \$150 takes both. Please leave a message at 217-415-0020.

FOR SALE: Massey Ferguson 6ft finishing mower, 3 pt hitch, \$1,500. Propane conversion for car, truck, or tractor, \$500. Fuel Oil tan, 175 gallon, \$75. Old Mark Twin boat with trailer, \$200. Old trolling motor, \$100. Wire feed welder, flux core, \$100. Call: 618-372-8411

FOR SALE: 3-bedroom double wide mobile home, you move. For more info, call: 618-910-9351

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.

Deadline for next month's issue is **July 13th** and/or until space is filled; first come, first serve basis. Member Trading Post is printed only if space allows.

SAME MJM NEWS, NEW FORMAT

In September of 2026, MJM's "Along the Lines" monthly newsletter will be joining with Illinois Country Living Magazine as a 4-page center insert!

If you are currently on MJM's mailing list, you will receive the physical magazine. MJM members on our digital newsletter email list will continue to receive the newsletter emails with the new format.

You will get the same local MJM news and gain additional information, recipes, business features in the Prairie Table section, photo contests, and resources that Illinois Country Living Magazine has to offer.



SAFETY & SAVINGS:

THESE SIMPLE ACTIONS CAN HELP CONSERVE ENERGY DURING SUMMER

Energy use and costs typically increase as the mercury rises, but there are a number of simple, economical ways to boost comfort, save energy and reduce electric bills. Most of these energy-saving steps can pay for themselves relatively quickly.

A substantial portion of total residential energy costs is spent cooling homes. Reduce energy costs and ready the air conditioner with a cleaning and tune-up. Clean or change filters monthly during the cooling season. If you're purchasing a new unit, check the efficiency rating, which could impact your annual energy costs. For greater operating efficiency, install the unit in a shady area, and keep it free from plant overgrowth and debris.

Most of summer heat buildup in homes comes through windows. Simply closing the curtains, blinds and shades can reduce this heat gain by up to 40%, which saves on cooling costs. Installing awnings or shutters over windows exposed to direct sunlight can reduce indoor heat gain by up to 70%. Outdoor landscaping that includes shade trees, as well as shrubs or other plants around the foundation, can also reduce energy costs. Weather stripping and caulking are inexpensive ways to boost efficiency and cut energy costs year round.

Ventilate the attic and check insulation. Adequately sized vents and/or an attic fan can help keep hot air from building up. If your attic has less than 6 to 8 inches of insulation, consider adding more. Proper attic insulation can save up to 30% of your cooling bill. Be sure the insulation doesn't block vents or cover exhaust fans.

Keep cool and reduce air conditioning costs with ceiling and oscillating fans. The moving air makes the temperature feel cooler and may allow you to feel comfortable even with a higher thermostat setting. For each 1-degree increase in the thermostat setting, cooling costs can be trimmed by about 3%.

Follow these tips for greater energy efficiency and reduction in air conditioning costs:

- Install a programmable or smart thermostat to raise and lower the temperature automatically. A programmable version allows you to set it for a higher temperature while you're away and set it to cool the house before you return home. A smart thermostat



tracks your setting preferences and implements your cooling and heating patterns automatically.

- Turn off unnecessary lights and television sets you're not watching. Don't leave computers on when not in use.
- Make sure heat-producing appliances like televisions and lamps are away from the thermostat. They will raise the temperature at the thermostat and cause the air conditioner to run when it is not needed.
- Plan to do hot work – washing and drying clothes, cooking and baking – during cooler morning and evening hours.
- Keep your kitchen cooler by cooking in a microwave oven or grilling outdoors.

Increased summer electric demand not only impacts the household budget, it can also place a serious strain on your home's electrical system – a dangerous shock and fire hazard. Flickering or dimming lights, televisions or computer monitors, or frequent circuit breaker trips are signs of an overloaded electrical system or faulty wiring that should be checked immediately by a professional.

Homeowners can take simple electrical safety measures to prevent overloaded outlets and serious damage and injury. Avoid using extension cords, and don't use multiple plugs in outlets. Check plugs and electric cords for fraying or cracks, and never run cords across high-traffic areas, behind curtains or baseboards, or underneath rugs or furniture.

BEFORE JUMPING IN

KNOW THESE 6 POOL SAFETY TIPS

Keep these electrical safety tips in mind before and during swimming season. These safety tips also apply to hot tubs.



Teach these tips to kids and teens, especially when it comes to using a cell phone that is plugged into an outlet.

BEFORE YOU JUMP IN, LEARN MORE ABOUT "ESD"

Just what is electric shock drowning, or ESD?

An unfamiliar term to many, ESD means that someone is being exposed to stray electrical current in water, usually from faulty wiring — a danger you cannot see or detect just by looking. Many people have never heard of ESD or don't even know it's a possibility when swimming, wading, boating or hot-tubbing.

While we are not suggesting that stray electricity lurks in every body of water, it is important to be aware water can become electrified and that electric shock drowning can occur.

Dangerous water that has electrical current running through it can paralyze muscles, leaving a swimmer unable to move or stay afloat. Stray electricity could be found in the water:

- Near a dock that uses electricity (usually in fresh water as opposed to salt water).
- Near a marina (never swim there).
- Surrounding a yacht or boat capable of generating electricity.
- In a pool or hot tub (electricity often runs the lights and motors).
- In a wading pool, kiddie pool, lazy river or water amusement feature that uses electricity.

This is not an exhaustive list; in fact, current could leak into any water source with electricity running to it (for example, a lighted fountain).

Depending on the magnitude of the current, sometimes a person can detect stray electricity in the water by the sensations they feel, such as prickly or tingly sensations. If that happens, pull your legs up close to your body and swim away from the source of electricity (e.g., a dock, boat or light post on shore). Yell to someone on land or the dock to cut the power. Again, do not swim toward the electrical source.

If you suspect someone is experiencing electrical shock while in the water, do not jump in to help. Instead, call 9-1-1, throw a life ring or lifesaver and, if you can, shut off the power source.

For more information about electrical safety, go to safeelectricity.org.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Running multiple major appliances at the same time—like your dishwasher, laundry machines and oven—can spike energy demand and strain the grid, especially during peak hours (typically late afternoon to early evening). Instead of stacking appliance use, spread it out throughout the day or shift chores to off-peak hours when energy demand is lower. This not only helps improve overall efficiency but can also reduce your energy costs. A simple habit change, like doing laundry in the morning and running the dishwasher overnight, can make a meaningful difference for both your wallet and energy reliability.

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Scammers are increasingly using “smishing” — fake text messages designed to look like they’re from legitimate businesses, including your electric utility. These texts may claim your bill is overdue, your service will be disconnected or you’re owed a refund. They often include a link that directs you to a fake payment site or asks for personal information. Never click suspicious links or respond to unexpected texts, even if the message appears urgent. Instead, log in to your utility account through the official website or mobile app to verify any claims. We will never ask for sensitive information like passwords or banking details through text messages.

