



MJM
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

ALONG THE LINES

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ALONG THE LINES

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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 loca-
tion 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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Operation Round Up funds now available!




MJM is proud to announce that Operation Round Up (ORU) applications are available to the public. Since MJM began collecting change in January 2021, ORU funds have reached \$14,704.63 - just in a few months! **All non-for-profits, 501(c)(3) organizations are encouraged to apply for a grant.** Once your applications are completed and submitted, these applications will then be viewed by the Grant Review Board for approval of funds. Please send all applications, additional forms, and paperwork to ORU - Brooke Gross, P.O. Box 80, Carlinville, IL, 62626. Please see the ORU Application Guidelines and ORU Application on our website at www.mjmec.coop/operation-round for more details. For any questions regarding ORU or the application process, please call Brooke Gross on her direct line at 217-707-6028. 

Help Us, Help You!

**Do you have an EV or
plan to get one?**



Haven't you heard? Electric vehicles are on the rise! Just so MJM can plan accordingly to handle the load an electric vehicle takes to charge, please scan the QR code with your smart device above and take the survey. To take the survey, open up the camera on your smartphone, focus the camera on the QR code, and hold your finger down on the screen until a link pops up. Please click on that link and follow directions for the online survey. (Depending on your smartphone, a QR Code Reader app may be needed.) If you cannot take the online survey and plan on buying a vehicle before the end of 2021 or have already bought one, please call the office at 217-707-6156. 

WE ARE READY FOR STORM SEASON. ARE YOU?

Now that summer is in full swing, like many of you, I welcome more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy the warmer weather. Summertime brings many of my favorite activities like cooking out with family and friends, afternoons on the water and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

But summer months also make conditions right for dangerous storms. These potential weather events can cause destruction to our electrical system, but I want you to know that MJM Electric crews are ready and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area.

When major storms knock out power, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines. I would encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during major storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends the items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but you can visit www.ready.gov for additional resources.

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).
- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your First Aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge, and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information, and check MJM's Facebook page or SmartHub app for power restoration updates.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs, including on your property.

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects. Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings, and download our SmartHub app to stay abreast of power restoration efforts and other important co-op news and information.


We hope you don't experience severe storms this summer, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. At MJM, we recommend that you act today because there is power in planning. From our co-op family to yours, we hope you have a safe and wonderful summer. 🌈




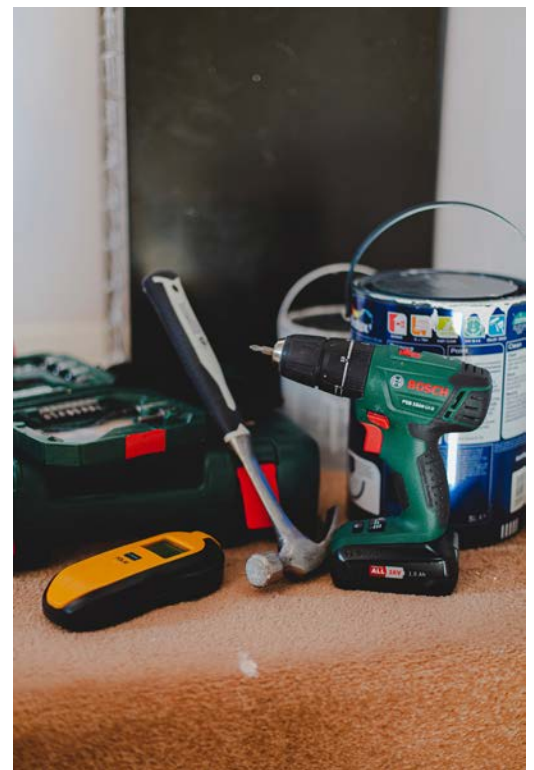
Practice Safety while DIY-ing

These days many of us are spending more time at home and finding new, creative ways to enhance our living space. Tackling do-it-yourself (DIY) projects for the home can be fun and cost-effective, so why not roll up those sleeves and get started! Whether you're painting the front door with a fresh hue or finally upgrading those patio lights, successfully completing a DIY home project is incredibly satisfying. But many of these projects do not come without risks. Here are a few safety tips to keep in mind as you get to work.

- **Start by selecting a designated work area.** The amount of space you'll need will depend on the size and scope of your project, but make sure you have adequate lighting and ventilation (if necessary). Required tools and equipment should be located in your workspace and organized for easy access.
- **Personal protective equipment (PPE) is your friend.** We know you're a pro but investing a few bucks in PPE is essential for most home projects. Stock up on safety goggles, dust masks, ear plugs (or noise reduction ear protectors), gloves and any other kind of protection you'll need for your project. Remember to wear appropriate clothing and shoes. (Ditch the sandals for this!)
- **Work slowly and clean as you go.** When you rush through a DIY project, you'll likely end up with less desirable results than you intended, or worse, you could make a costly or dangerous mistake. Take your time and remember that you are in control of the project. You should also clean as you go to ensure a safer workspace. Pick up any scrap materials, tools that aren't in use and any tripping hazards.
- **Be cautious with power tools.** Annually, 8% of electrocutions in the U.S. are attributed to improper use of power tools. The Electrical Safety Foundation International offers the following safety tips: Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) with every power tool to protect against electrical shock. Never use power tools near live electrical wires or water pipes. Use extreme caution when cutting or drilling into walls where electrical wires or water pipes could be accidentally touched or penetrated. If a power tool trips a safety device while in use, take the tool to a manufacturer-authorized repair center for service. Do not use power tools without the proper guards. When using a wet-dry vacuum cleaner or a pressure washer, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions to avoid electrical shock.



Remember, you should only tackle DIY home projects within your skill and comfort level. For projects that require extensive electrical work, we strongly recommend you hire a licensed, qualified electrician for assistance. 



Adding to MJM's Momentum



In mid-March, MJM hired on two apprentice linemen to begin their journey at MJM Electric - Riley Marsh of Jerseyville and Craig Unser of Morrisonville.

Riley Marsh graduated from Lincoln Land Community College for Electrical Line Distribution in 2016. For the past couple of years, he worked as a Substation Technician Apprentice for JF Electric. When MJM posted that there was a need for linemen, he quickly answered the call. Marsh grew up watching his grandpa work as a lineman with Illinois Electric Cooperative out of Winchester. "It has always been my dream job," Marsh stated. Marsh is busy at home preparing for the arrival of his daughter in October. He gets a lot of help from his lab named Lucy. Marsh is a family man and enjoys his evenings hunting, fishing, and spending time with friends. He was surprised to find out that MJM had three warehouses in Piasa, Taylor Springs, and, of

course, Carlinville. He has learned quickly that those warehouses are needed to better serve MJM Members throughout the entire service territory.

Craig Unser graduated from Western University in 2017 with his bachelors. He continued his education in Trenton, GA, at the Southeast Lineman Training Center where he graduated from there in 2018. He began work clearing right of ways for Intren. He recalled having to introduce himself to the same people multiple times because it was such a large business. MJM's community and local involvement appealed to his small-town heart. "Working for a large company is tough. MJM has the small town feel but in these few weeks I have seen the huge, positive impact that it has on the community," Unser noted. He's looking to become more involved in the community and move closer to MJM so he can respond to any calls that Members have quicker than he already does. He agreed with Marsh's statement about being surprised with the three different locations. Neither apprentices realized how many miles of line MJM serves. They have a new appreciation for the small-town Co-ops. Unser is newly married to his wife Emily and they have a dog named Archie. He is a big St. Louis Cardinal and St. Louis Blues fan and enjoys spending time with family and friends.



These two men are extremely busy learning the duties of a lineman. However, their long days do not hinder the excitement that radiates through them. MJM is lucky to have two apprentices who have already a newfound love for the Co-op and serving its Members. 🏠⚡

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

A dirty filter causes your air conditioner to work harder than necessary.

Remember to change your air filter every month (or every two months) to prevent dust buildup, which can lead to even bigger problems.



ILLINOIS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The **Clean Energy Jobs Act**, a voluminous bill that has 59 separate measures, was introduced in the Illinois General Assembly. The bill impacts electric cooperatives in a couple of specific ways: creating a renewable portfolio standard for co-ops and municipalities, introducing a carbon tax that will be used to fund a \$209 million “green job” training fund (it is estimated that cooperatives’ share of the **Prairie State Energy Campus** alone would amount to \$23 million), and most notably, eliminating all carbon production from the Illinois energy portfolio by 2030. On this last point, co-ops are viewed as most harmed due to the announced retirement of older coal plants among Illinois investor-owned utilities. Meanwhile, the newest coal plant in the state, Prairie State, has an effective lifespan to 2050. Wabash Valley Power Alliance, in cooperation with other Illinois G&Ts, has begun working with the **Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives** to position opposition to many of the points in this bill.



CELEBRATING THE BIG, WORKING VEHICLES



On Thursday, May 13th, MJM enticed future mini MJM Members to take on a career as a lineworker. Area Utility Leader Mike Hart took a bucket truck to Cross Church in Carlinville for the annual Transportation Night. Hart also pulled out a few tools he uses to be safe everyday and did a demonstration for the kids. This is an event hosted by Cross Church for all the local preschoolers and their families to come see all different types of vehicles and the professions that go along with them. There was a crowd surrounding the bucket truck admiring how high the bucket can get until a helicopter landed for its duty at Transportation Night. Although, the helicopter drew away those with their own vehicles, too! 🚁

Suds and Savings

Your clothes washer and dryer account for a significant portion of energy consumption from major appliances, and let's face it—laundry is no one's favorite chore. Make the most of your laundry energy use! There are several easy ways you can save energy (and money) in the laundry room. The Department of Energy recommends the following tips for saving on suds:

1. Wash with cold water. Switching from warm water to cold water can cut one load's energy use by more than half, and by using a cold-water detergent, you can still achieve that brilliant clean you'd normally get from washing in warm water.

2. Wash full loads when possible. Your washing machine will use the same amount of energy no matter the size of the clothes load, so fill it up if you can.

3. Use the high-speed or extended spin cycle in the washer. This setting will remove more moisture before drying, reducing your drying time and the extra wear on clothing.

4. Dry heavier cottons separately. Loads will dry faster and more evenly if you separate heavier cottons like linens and towels from your lightweight clothing.


5. Make use of the "cool down" cycle. If your dryer has this cycle option, you can save energy because the clothes will finish drying with the remaining heat in the dryer.

6. Use lower heat settings to dry clothing. Regardless of drying time, you'll still use less energy.

7. Use dryer balls. Dryer balls, usually wool or rubber, will help keep clothes separated for faster drying, and they can help reduce static, so you can eliminate dryer sheets.

8. Switch loads while the dryer is warm. This allows you to take advantage of the remaining heat from the previous cycle.

9. Clean the lint filter after each drying cycle. If you use dryer sheets, remember to scrub the filter once a month with a toothbrush to remove excess buildup.

10. Purchase ENERGY STAR®-rated washers and dryers. When it's time to purchase a new washer or dryer, look for the ENERGY STAR® label. New washers and dryers that receive the ENERGY STAR® rating use about 20% less energy than conventional models. 

Member Trading Post

FOR SALE: 5hp lawn boy mower - \$75, 5hp high wheel mower - \$50, Stihl weed eater - \$65, Remington weed eater - \$50, Landscape edging - \$15, Shovels, picks, etc. - \$5 each. Please call 618-635-239.

FOR SALE: John Deere 445 lawn and garden tractor with a 54-inch mower deck and a 22 HP Kawasaki engine with 815 hours on it. Call 618-328-8431 for more info.

FOR SALE: Coyote brand 3 pt tiller for tractor, 60" wide, 5 ft. \$1,200 – good condition. Call 618-535-5828.

FOR SALE: 2005 Ford Explorer, \$11,000 O.B.O. Call 618-535-4389.

FOR SALE: Ford YT16 riding lawn mower model 09GN2153, 1988 42-inch mower deck. Runs and works good. Owner manual on mower and mower deck. Vintage unit has been housed inside. \$650 O.B.O. 217-854-9219.

FOR SALE: Oak firewood, split and cut. Load and haul for \$60. Small chest freezer - \$150. Homemade trailer, 6' x 6' - \$125. Picnic table, 5' x 8' - \$150. Call 618-635-2391.

FOR SALE: 2008 Dodge 2500 Ram Quad, four-wheel drive, silver color, 141,000 highway miles. Call or text 217-851-0861. Please leave a message if there's no answer.

FOR SALE: Kubota front loader, model LA243A. Loaders fits the following Kubota tractors: model BX260, BX2660, BX23700, and BX2670D. Never been used and has been housed. Asking \$2,700. If interested, call 618-535-8350 or 618-535-9544.

FOR SALE: 9 sets of Ashton Drake doll ornaments, all in original cartons of 3 each with certificates of authenticity. Names of dolls: Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, Little Bo Peep, Jill--Heather, Jennifer, Matthew--Sweet Carnation, Lily, Cherry Blossom--Emily, Danielle, Lisa--Michael, Sarah, Amanda--Jason, Jessica, David--Todd, Shawna, Lindsey--Meagan Rose, Daisy Anne, Morning Glory--Christy, Mary Had a Little Lamb, and Johnny. \$10 per set of 3. Call 618-876-9264.

FOR SALE: 1988 24ft Horse Trailer, needs flooring \$2500. Call 618-980-9705

To list your free ad, email brookeg@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.