ALONGTHELINES

DEDICATED TO SAFELY PROVIDING RELIABLE SERVICE TO OUR MEMBERS.

November 2026

REMINDER: Scholarship Application Portal Now Open!

IEC MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

MJM SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



2026 MJM Scholarship & Honorary Scholarship recipients at MJM's Annual Meeting in Carlinville, IL with President/CEO, Joe Heyen.

THE IEC MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND was established by unanimous vote of AIEC's board of directors in January 1994. It is designed to provide financial assistance to deserving students in the electric cooperative family.

The driving force behind the creation of the fund was **Thomas H. Moore**, former executive vice president and general manager of the AIEC. Moore strongly believed that a scholarship program should be established to provide a means by which cooperatives and individuals could honor members of the electric cooperative family who have passed through memorial gifts. The scholarship program was renamed in his honor after he passed away in 2008.

The scholarship program prospered under the leadership of **Earl Struck**, who succeeded Moore and served as president/CEO of the AIEC from 1994 to 2006. Struck passed away in August 2007. That month, the AIEC board unanimously voted to honor Struck by naming an annual scholarship in his memory and awarding the **Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship** to the child of an electric cooperative employee or director.

The Illinois Community College System Foundation (ICCSF) administers the IEC Memorial Scholarship Fund. Sixteen IEC scholarships are awarded each year.

As of 2026, each annual scholarship is worth $3,000. The scholarship must be used for educational costs, and the student must enter college within a year from the time the scholarship is issued.

Scholarships are awarded based on grade point average, college entrance test scores, work and volunteer experience, participation in school and community activities, biographical statement and creative, thoughtful responses to how electric cooperatives can serve their future members, as demonstrated by a short essay. **This application also enters students from the MJM service area for a chance to receive an MJM scholarship or honorary scholarship.**

To apply, a student must meet the required criteria and complete the online scholarship application through their local electric cooperative website link or by going to **www.aiec.coop/iec-scholarship**. Each applicant is responsible for submitting all information required to apply for a scholarship by **Dec. 31, 2026**.

MJM CALENDAR

- Nov. 11 - Veterans Day (Office Closed)
- Nov. 26 & 27 - Office Closed
- Dec. 24 & 25 - Office Closed
- Dec. 31 - Office Closed and **Scholarship Application Deadline**
- Jan. 1, 2027 - Office Closed

CONTACT US

MJM Electric Cooperative

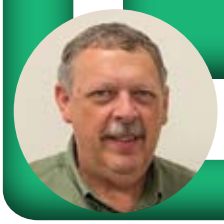
Phone: (217) 707-6156
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www.mjmec.coop

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PO Box 80,
Carlinville, IL 62626

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Carlinville, IL 62626

Office Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

MJM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



MJM Substation Battery Projects

by Joe Heyen, *MJM President/CEO*

Board of Directors

Directors are voted on at each Annual Meeting by the membership. If the election is not contested, the director running will be elected by acclamation.

Chairman
Todd Stewart (District 8)

Vice Chairman
Charles Huebener (District 3)

Secretary
Marcie Tonsor (District 9)

Treasurer
Tyler Heyen (District 6)

Directors
Tim Walsh (District 1)
Dwanye Milner (District 2)
Leann Barr (District 4)
Frank Welling (District 5)
James Niemann (District 7)

For more information, visit:
mjmec.coop/how-we-are-governed

Staff

President/CEO
Joe Heyen

Finance & Accounting Manager
Brian Gunning

Office Manager
Jen Peterson

Operations Manager
Matt Eisenmenger

Engineering Manager
Martin L. Hinton

"Along the Lines" Editor

Communications & Member Services Coordinator
Eric Cooper

Office 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.

BRIGHTON AND JERSEYVILLE SUBSTATIONS will host new battery energy storage systems to support local reliability, rate stability, and future energy needs.

MJM Electric Cooperative members may soon notice activity at two local substations as part of a larger effort to strengthen the local electric distribution system. Battery Energy Storage Systems, often called **BESS**, are planned for the Brighton and Jerseyville substations. The Brighton site is planned as a 3-megawatt battery project, while the Jerseyville site is planned as a 4-megawatt battery project.

The projects are part of the Substation Battery Program, a partnership between Wabash Valley Power Alliance and their participating member cooperatives like MJM. The program places battery systems at selected substations so electricity can be stored and used locally when it is needed most. MJM is currently in the Phase 3 timeline, which is scheduled to be completed by December 2027.

The batteries will store electricity and send it into MJM's local distribution system when conditions call for it. This means the power can help serve nearby homes, farms, schools, and businesses connected to the cooperative's system.

Battery storage can help manage energy costs. When electricity is less expensive, the batteries can charge. When demand and prices are higher, stored electricity can be released back into the local system. Over time, this helps support stable electric rates for all MJM members.

These systems can also support reliability. Batteries can respond quickly when the electric system needs extra support. They do not replace power lines, substations, crews, or regular maintenance, but they add another tool to help keep the grid steady.

The battery systems will be located inside secure, fenced substation areas. They will be monitored remotely and maintained on a regular basis. Charging and discharging will be controlled by Wabash Valley Power Alliance, MJM's wholesale power provider.

The batteries are expected to be part of a 20-year lease arrangement with a partner company. This approach allows the cooperative and its members to benefit from battery storage without MJM having to own every part of the project directly.

Why this matters to MJM members

For MJM members, the main goal is simple: keep power reliable and affordable while preparing for future energy needs. Battery storage gives the cooperative another way to manage peak demand, support local service, and make the electric system more flexible.

The Brighton and Jerseyville batteries will store electricity for local use. That stored power can flow directly into MJM's distribution system, helping serve homes, farms, schools, and businesses in the cooperative's service area.

These projects also support long-term community energy needs. As electricity use changes over time, battery storage can help MJM and Wabash Valley Power Alliance respond to local demand while continuing to focus on stable electric rates for members.

There may also be local benefits beyond the electric system. Hosting battery projects can provide compensation to participating cooperatives and may create new local tax revenue. These benefits can help support the communities MJM serves.

Safety and environmental considerations

The battery units are self-contained, which means they are designed so they do not create groundwater risks during normal operation. They also do not produce emissions, odors, or gases during normal operation.

The systems are built for outdoor use and are designed to withstand severe weather, including storms, snow, dust, high winds, and earthquakes.

The weatherproof containers are expected to blend in with existing substation equipment. Fire risk is designed to be very low. The projects are expected to use LFP battery chemistry, which is known for a strong safety profile. The systems will be monitored for overheating, climate controlled, and able to shut down automatically if needed.

If an unusual event occurs, the systems include alerts, safe shutdown features, and fire-resistant materials. First responders will also be trained so they understand the equipment and know how to respond safely.

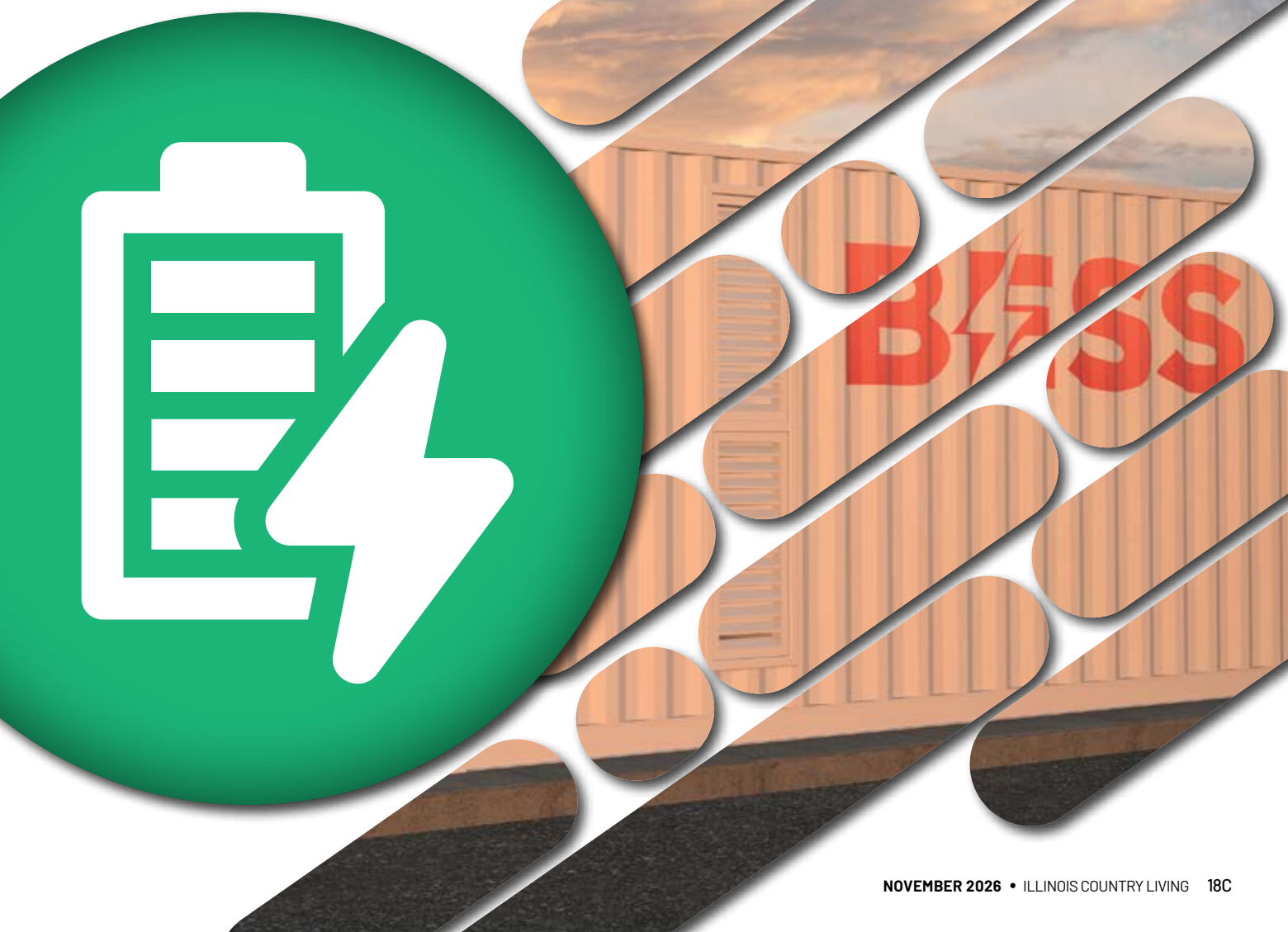
The units are expected to operate with low noise, comparable to a newer residential heating and cooling unit. Because they are located at existing substations and do not create emissions, odors, or significant noise, they are not expected to affect nearby property values.

Current timeline

The Substation Battery Program is being completed in phases. Phase 1 and Phase 2 include 58 megawatts of battery storage at 11 sites by July 2026. MJM's Brighton and Jerseyville projects are part of the current Phase 3 timeline, which calls for 100 megawatts of battery storage across Illinois and Indiana by December 2027.

As work moves forward, MJM will continue sharing information with members about project progress, timing, and any important construction updates. The goal is to keep members informed while helping build a stronger, more reliable electric system for the future.

www.wvpa.com/power-supply-diversity/substation-battery-program/



Member Trading Post

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

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

FOR SALE: Massey Ferguson heavy duty 4-bottom plow. $350. Troy Bilt junior tiller, needs carburetor work, $200.
Call: 618-779-2078

FOR SALE: 2008 Cheverolet Trailblazer LS 4WD, Never wrecked, body is in good condition, needs some mechanical work. Make Offer. Also, a variety of old glass jars and bottles. Call for information: 618-494-8099

FOR SALE: 2002 VW Golf 2.0, 4 door, white, manual shift, bought from original owner. 169,000 mi. Very good condition. Cold AC. $2550. Duncan Pfyfe vintage drop leave green painted table. $175. General Electric oven, works great, 30" front width. $75. 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.**
The deadline for next month's issue is **November 9th** and/or until space is filled; first come, first serve basis. Member Trading Post is printed only if space allows.



CONGRATULATIONS!

MJM Lineworker, Andrew Wieseman has earned his certification of Journeyman Lineman from the Northwest Lineman College's, Power Delivery Program! The 3-4 year program delivers the technical instruction through 10 specialized classes required to transform apprentice-level employees into certified, journey-level trade professionals.

NEW OFFICE HOURS

Starting November 1st

Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH

Adjust your water heater settings to save energy. As cooler weather arrives, your water heater may be working harder to keep up with longer, hotter showers. Check its temperature setting and consider lowering it to 120°F, which the U.S. Department of Energy recommends for most households. Lowering the temperature can reduce energy use while also helping prevent scalding. Always check the owner's manual before making adjustments.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

Maximize System Performance. **Minimize** Energy Waste.

Whether your heating and cooling system is brand new or 10 years old, regular maintenance can help your system run efficiently, keep energy costs in check and extend its life.

Filter Care
Every 2-3 months

- Check your air filter and replace it as recommended. A dirty filter can re-strict airflow and make your system work harder.
- Keep return and supply vents clear of furniture, rugs and other obstructions. Dust them regularly.



Outdoor Unit Care
Once or twice a year

- Keep leaves, grass and other debris at least 2 feet away from the outdoor unit.
- Gently rinse dirty condenser coils with a garden hose, following your manufacturer's recommendations.



Proactive Service
Twice a year

- Schedule professional tune-ups in spring for cooling and fall for heating.
- Have ductwork checked for leaks or disconnected sections, and seal leaks with mastic or foil-backed tape.



Thermostat Smarts
Year-round

- Adjust your thermostat when you're asleep or away. In summer, set it a little higher; in winter, a little lower.
- Consider a programmable or smart thermostat to automatically manage temperatures and save energy.





A little maintenance can go a long way.
Contact your electric co-op if you have questions about home energy use.

Photo Credit: Lennox