

Illinois Country Living

**MJM'S NEWSLETTER JOINS
ILLINOIS COUNTRY LIVING!**



A Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperative 
mjmec.coop

ALONG THE LINES

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2026 MJM Board of Directors with President/CEO, Joe Heyen, and Attorney, Amy Jackson.

MJM History: Did You Know?

MJM was first officially organized on April 5, 1939, and the first official meeting of the board of trustees was held on April 10 at 2 p.m., in Mowery's office in Carlinville. The name was suggested by Loren L. Love of Carlinville and stands for Macoupin, Jersey, Montgomery – the three counties initially served by the Cooperative. When the Cooperative officially formed in 1939, it counted 940 members in Macoupin, 250 in Montgomery, and 410 in Jersey.

MJM Cooperative's first member had power turned on in 1940. The average member, in 1941, used an average of 79 kilowatt hours a month.

Your Cooperative now provides electricity to more than 9,600 accounts and services 2,122 miles of power lines through Macoupin, Jersey, Montgomery, Bond, Fayette, Green, and Madison counties. The average member uses about 1,100 kilowatt hours per month.

Just like in the 1930s, MJM does not aim to turn a large profit but to provide our member-owners with quality service. Your money isn't going into the pockets of wealthy investors; it pays for what it costs the cooperative to deliver electricity to you and keep the lines in working order, with a little bit set aside to help the community.

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Your smart thermostat, security camera, video doorbell and other connected devices make life more convenient—but they can also be targets for cybercriminals if they're not properly secured. Change default usernames and passwords, use strong, unique passwords for each device and enable multi-factor authentication when available. Keep your devices up to date by installing software and firmware updates, which often include important security fixes. Secure your home Wi-Fi network with a strong password and modern encryption. A few simple steps can help keep your personal information and smart devices safe from scammers.

Source: CISA

NEWSLETTER TO MAGAZINE

MJM's "Along the Lines" monthly newsletter has joined 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. The MJM Along the Lines newsletter insert is on pages 18A-18D.

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.





POWER MOVES®

2026 RESIDENTIAL REBATE PROGRAM

Geothermal Heat Pump (with Electric Backup)

▶ Water-to-air closed loop ≥ 17.1 EER / ≥ 3.6 COP	CLOSED LOOP: <i>Replacing an electric resistance, fossil fuel, air source heat pump, or into new construction</i>	\$2,000
▶ Water-to-air open loop ≥ 21.1 EER / ≥ 4.1 COP	<i>Replacing a geothermal</i>	\$250
▶ Water-to-water closed loop ≥ 16.1 EER / ≥ 3.1 COP	OPEN LOOP: <i>Replacing an electric resistance, fossil fuel, air source heat pump, or into new construction</i>	\$1,000
▶ Water-to-water open loop ≥ 20.1 EER / ≥ 3.5 COP	<i>Replacing a geothermal</i>	\$250

Air Source Heat Pump (Whole Home)

	REPLACING:	COLD CLIMATE HEAT PUMP*	NON-COLD HEAT PUMP
▶ Electric Back-up	<i>Electric Resistance Heat</i>	\$1800	\$750
▶ ≥ 15.2 SEER2	<i>Natural Gas, Propane, Fuel Oil Heat</i>	\$1800	\$750
▶ ≥ 8.1 HSPF2	<i>Air Source Heat Pump</i>	\$1800	\$250
▶ ≥ 1.75 COP at 5° (Cold Climate ASHP only)*	<i>New Construction</i>	\$1800	N/A
▶ Condenser and coil must be replaced and installed as a matched set			

Air Source Heat Pump (Partial Home)

	REPLACING:	COLD CLIMATE HEAT PUMP*	NON-COLD HEAT PUMP
▶ Electric Back-up	<i>Electric Resistance Heat</i>	\$800	\$250
▶ ≥ 15.2 SEER2	<i>Natural Gas, Propane, Fuel Oil Heat</i>	\$800	\$250
▶ ≥ 8.1 HSPF2	<i>Air Source Heat Pump</i>	\$800	\$250
▶ ≥ 1.75 COP at 5° (Cold Climate ASHP only)*	<i>New Construction</i>	\$800	N/A
▶ Condenser and coil must be replaced and installed as a matched set			

Natural Gas, Propane, and Fuel Oil with Heat Pump - Split System (Ducted)

▶ ≥ 15.2 SEER2	REPLACING ELECTRIC RESISTANCE: <i>electric furnace, ceiling cable, baseboard</i>	\$500
▶ ≥ 7.5 HSPF2		
▶ A new heat pump may be installed on an existing gas furnace	REPLACING FOSSIL FUEL AND CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING	\$500
▶ New system must heat and cool entire home	NEW CONSTRUCTION	\$500

Heat Pump Water Heater

▶ Minimum UEF of 3.3	REPLACING ELECTRIC RESISTANCE TANK	\$800
	REPLACING NATURAL GAS OR PROPANE WATER HEATER	\$800
	NEW CONSTRUCTION	\$800

Wi-Fi Thermostat

▶ Approved Wi-Fi thermostats	REPLACING NON WI-FI THERMOSTAT WITH WI-FI THERMOSTAT	\$75
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PURCHASE RECEIPTS REQUIRED FOR ALL REBATE APPLICATIONS.

AHRI Certificates required for all geothermal, air source heat pump, and heat pump water heater rebate applications.

Heat loss/heat gain calculations required for geothermal and air source heat pumps.

Failure to provide requested information may result in forfeiture of rebate.

All installations are subject to verification and/or inspection.

For full requirements, see applications.

REBATE PROGRAM ENDS DEC. 31, 2026, AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

We also offer prescriptive and custom rebates for businesses to make qualifying energy efficiency upgrades to their facilities.

Visit PowerMoves.com or call your local electric cooperative's Energy Advisor for more information.



ALONG THE LINES

DEDICATED TO SAFELY PROVIDING RELIABLE SERVICE TO OUR MEMBERS.

September 2026

MJM CALENDAR

- Sept. 1 - Monthly Billing Statements
- Sept. 7 - Labor Day (Office Closed)
- Nov. 11 - Veterans Day (Office Closed)
- Nov. 26 & 27 - Office Closed
- Dec. 24 & 25 - Office Closed
- Dec. 31 - Office Closed

CONTACT US

MJM Electric Cooperative

Phone: (217) 707-6156

Fax: (217) 854-3918

Pay-by-Phone: (217) 707-6156 (opt.1)

www.mjmec.coop

Mailing Address

PO Box 80,
Carlinville, IL 62626

Physical Address

18300 Shipman Rd.,
Carlinville, IL 62626

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Emergency Preparedness During An Electrical Outage

By: SafeElectricity.org

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH. Weather, accidents and storms can disrupt the electricity we are so used to having. Sometimes electricity flickers momentarily then comes back. But serious damage to power lines and the electrical grid can cause outages for days, or weeks.

Here's valuable information to keep you safe and comfortable during a power outage of any length.

Short-term power failures

Don't panic! Check to see if your neighbors still have electricity. If they do, the problem could be inside your home. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers to see if they have blown or tripped. Replacing a fuse or resetting a circuit breaker may restore your electricity.

If the problem is not in your home, call your electric supplier. A repair person will be dispatched as quickly as possible. Your supplier should also be able to tell you if it will be an extended outage.

Unplug appliances with electronic components, such as microwaves, televisions and computers. This will help to eliminate damage to your appliances from voltage surges when the electricity is restored. Wait a few minutes before turning on these appliances when the electricity is restored. This will reduce demand on the power supplier's electrical system.

Long-term power failures

If you use a standby generator, be sure it has been installed and wired properly. If improperly installed, a generator could cause dangerous conditions for the utility supplier's employees working to restore the power. Your generator could be damaged when the power is restored if a double throw disconnect is not used and properly installed.

Of course, it is also important to be sure that a fresh supply of fuel to power the generator is on hand and stored properly.

This is Continued on pg. 18D



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)

Dwayne 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

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.



Next Deadline: October 5th

ALL LOCAL 501(C)(3), 501(C), AND 509(A)(1) non-for-profits organizations in the MJM Service area are encouraged to apply for an Operation Round Up (ORU) grant.

The mission of the Operation Round Up Program is to assist in strengthening the communities served by MJM Electric. Through this innovative program, the "small change" is earmarked for community betterment groups and other programs in need of financial assistance.

Please send all fully completed applications and forms to:
**MJM Operation Round Up,
P.O. Box 80,
Carlinville, IL, 62626.**

For more information about qualifications, restrictions, and guidelines, please visit the MJM website:
mjmec.coop/operation-round



Coffeen Fire Protection District



Got Faith of Jerseyville

Member Trading Post

FOR SALE: A 1982 IH 5088 tractor, new paint, new interior, approximately 6,000 hours, good tires, new front tires, all gauges work, runs good, \$17,500. Call: 618-535-0275 or 618-535-0276

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

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

FOR RENT: Inside/covered storage space for boat, camper, or car. Call: 618-334-4298

FOR SALE: A 2001 Lincoln Towncar, \$2,000. A 2011 Ford Lariat 150, \$9,000. May consider trade(s). Call: 217-851-5252

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 **September 8th** and/or until space is filled; first come, first serve basis. Member Trading Post is printed only if space allows.



Electricity Brings Everyday Value



Joe Heyen: MJM President/CEO

WHEN IT COMES TO ELECTRICITY, we rarely think twice when we flip on a light switch, brew coffee in the morning, charge our phones or adjust the thermostat. We simply expect the power to be there—and that's how it should be because you are a member of MJM, and reliably powering your life is our mission.

We know that many families across our local communities are feeling the impact of rising costs for everyday expenses. Groceries, gasoline, insurance and other necessities cost more than they did just a few years ago. And because of that, we understand that every household is carefully considering where each dollar goes.

That's why I think it's important to occasionally step back and consider

the value electricity provides.

The average U.S. residential electric bill is about \$150 a month—roughly \$5 a day. I often think about what that \$5 provides. It's about the cost of a specialty coffee, yet electricity powers nearly every moment of our daily lives, often without us giving it a second thought. In fact, many typical purchases cost more than a day's worth of electricity. A fast-food combo meal averages about \$9, and a single movie ticket can cost around \$13.

For about \$5 a day, your refrigerator keeps food fresh around the clock. Your heating and cooling system helps keep your family comfortable through the seasons. Lights brighten your home after sunset. Appliances make cooking and cleaning easier. Devices stay charged so you can work, learn, communicate and stay connected with

loved ones. When you think about everything electricity makes possible, it's one of the greatest values in the average household budget.

Even with electricity's exceptional value, we know every dollar matters. If you're looking for ways to lower your energy use, MJM is here to help. Whether you need efficiency advice, information about PowerMoves rebates or answers to questions about your monthly bill, our member service team is always available. Our Engineering, Operations, and Tree Trimming departments are also available to assist you with any technical issues, upgrades, or trimming requests.

"Owned by Those We Serve."

MJM is proud to be more than your electric provider. Because we're a cooperative, we're locally owned by you, the members we serve. MJM Board

Members are your neighbors that live in your local districts. That means every decision we make is guided by what's best for our community—not by outside shareholders. MJM's Mission Statement, **"Dedicated to safely providing reliable service to our members,"** is at the heart of every decision.

Thank you for trusting us to power your home and your life. We're committed to providing everyday value for you and your family, with reliable, affordable power—so you can make the most of every energy dollar.

**A Little Cost.
A Lot of Life.**

For about \$150 a month, electricity powers hundreds of tasks that keep your home comfortable, connected and running smoothly—from brewing your morning coffee to keeping your family cool, safe and entertained.

- 720 hours of refrigeration
- 20+ loads of clean clothes
- 15+ home-cooked meals
- 90+ hours of lighting
- Numerous devices charged
- Hundreds of hours of cooling/heating
- Countless connections to work, school and entertainment

30 days of comfort



Storm Preparedness cont...

To make an outage easier to cope with, keep an adequate supply of the following on hand:

- Flashlights, Battery-operated radio, Extra supply of batteries for flashlights and radio
- Portable phone charger, Drinking water and non-perishable food, can opener, Basic first-aid supplies, Hand sanitizer, Prescriptions, pain reliever, Warm clothing, Blankets, Important documents, Money, Baby supplies, and pet supplies if needed.

Keep in a cool, dry place and make sure all members of the family know where to find them.

Check the basement periodically for flooding. You can use a portable, gasoline-powered pump to pump out a basement or crawl space when the power is interrupted. Never wade into a flooded basement unless electricity has been disconnected.

Never go near downed power lines; report them immediately and let qualified people from the utility company handle these situations. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live. Any utility wire, including telephone or cable lines sagging or down could be in contact with an energized power line making them also very dangerous, so stay away from all of them.

Following these suggestions will make it easier to cope with a power outage. Think ahead and be prepared for an emergency by having a plan for your household.

Remember to stay calm. The electricity will be back on as quickly as possible. Your electric supplier is working around the clock to restore your service.



Farm Equipment Safety Tips

- Keep yourself and equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines at all times. Use a spotter when moving tall equipment and loads.
- Encourage drivers and operators to position grain augers in their lowest position or to lower truck bed boxes before moving. Use a spotter to make certain you stay far away from power lines.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path. If power lines near your property have sagged over time, call your utility to repair them.
- **If you are on equipment that contacts a power line, do not exit the equipment.** When you step off the equipment, you become the electricity's path to ground and receive a potentially fatal shock. Wait until utility workers have de-energized the line and confirmed it is safe for you to exit. If the vehicle is on fire and you must exit, jump clear of the vehicle with both feet together. Hop as far from the vehicle as you can with your feet together. Keep your feet together to prevent current flow through your body, which could be deadly.

Contact MJM about damaged or downed power lines or poles. Utility crews would much rather check out an issue than risk a potentially dangerous situation.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

September kicks off the fall shoulder season, when cooler mornings and milder evenings often mean you can give your heating and cooling system a break. Open windows, use ceiling fans and enjoy the fresh air whenever temperatures allow. It's also the perfect time to schedule annual HVAC maintenance before colder weather arrives. Because demand is typically lower during the fall, heating and cooling professionals often have greater availability, making it easier to book an appointment. Regular maintenance can improve your system's efficiency, help prevent unexpected breakdowns and keep your home comfortable all year long.

Source: Department of Energy



Energy Detective Challenge

School is back in session, and it's time to put your observation skills to work! Complete the challenges below and earn points by finding ways your family can save energy.



Goal:

Score 20 points to become an Energy Detective! After you've earned 20 points, cut out the badge below and display it for all to see!



SCAVENGER HUNT

COMPLETED

- A light is left on in an empty room (2 points) ☐
- A smart or programmable thermostat (4 points) ☐
- A ceiling fan spinning in a room where no one is spending time (2 points) ☐
- A charger plugged in with nothing connected to it (2 points) ☐
- An ENERGY STAR® label on an appliance (3 points) ☐
- A window or door left open or cracked when the heating/cooling system is on (3 points) ☐

MISSIONS

COMPLETED

- Turn off the lights when you leave a room (3 points) ☐
- Open blinds or curtains during the day instead of turning on a light (3 points) ☐
- Unplug a charger that isn't being used (3 points) ☐
- Remind family members to close the refrigerator door quickly (3 points) ☐
- Help your family create a "lights out" check before bedtime (4 points) ☐



**THANK
YOU
MJM
MEMBERS**