



Operation Round Up
Funds are available to any
501(c)(3) organization!
Go to [www.mjmec.coop/
operation-round](http://www.mjmec.coop/operation-round) for more
information!

Rep. Avery Bourne
Awarded
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MJM Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Office Hours

Mon-Fri 7:30a.m.-4:30p.m.



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Editor

Brooke Gross..... Communications and Member Services Coordinator

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 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.

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Member Trading Post

FOR SALE: 2009 Chevy Malibu, leather heated seats, 56,000 miles, new tires and breaks, oil change, and good battery. It's a V6, 4-door, greenish blue color. Asking \$7,450. O.B.O. Scagg Liberty Z, 48" zero turn mower. It has 250 hours, runs and cuts well. \$3,500 Selling brand new six – 10 in by 20 ft cast iron pipe, \$200 each. David Bradley Farm Dump Trailer, four wheels, and in good shape. Asking for \$2,000. Please call 618-980-9750 with offers or interests.

FOR SALE: Agri-Fab yard vac w/Briggs & Stratton Motor, 30" wide x 48" long. Asking \$650, sells new for \$1400, call 217-532-3726 after 6pm.

To list your free ad, email brookeg@mjmec.coop, call 217-707-6156, or mail the ad to MJM Electric Cooperative, 18300 Shipman Road, P.O. Box 80, Carlinville, IL 62626. Each ad will run for one month. Some restriction may apply. Thank you.

FOR SALE: Uniflame charcoal grill, shelf on each side of grill, only used 2 or 3 times, stored in garage, \$20.00. Char Broil gas grill, new still in box, \$50.00. Call 217-436-2576.



HAPPY LABOR DAY, MEMBERS!

The office will be closed on Monday, September 6th, in observance of the holiday.

Representative Avery Bourne receives IEC Public Service Award




M.J.M. Electric Cooperative, Inc. President/CEO Laura Cutler, next to Rep. Bourne (holding gold hardhat) was joined by (l-r) Director Robert Moore, Co-op Attorney Lee Plummer, and directors Dennis Stewart, W. Kay Schultz, William Heyen, James Niemann and Robert Lehmann.

During the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives' 80th annual meeting, held Friday, July 30, State Representative Avery Bourne, R-95th District, received the 2021 Illinois Electric Cooperatives' Public Service Award. The award was made in recognition of Rep. Bourne's dedicated public service to all citizens of the state of Illinois and for outstanding contributions to the rural electrification program.

Representative Bourne has served in the Illinois House since 2015. She serves as the Republican spokesperson on the elementary & secondary education: school curriculum & policies committee and several other committees including: appropriations-elementary & secondary education; executive; elementary & secondary education: administration, licensing & charter schools; child care access & early childhood education; and redistricting.

"Avery has been a true champion for the Illinois Electric Cooperatives and rural Illinois. As an electric cooperative member, she understands the challenges that we as a not-for-profit provider of electricity endure. She attends our annual meetings and is eager to address our membership. She is always willing to engage with our cooperative kids that attend youth day at the capital. She is well deserving of this award," M.J.M. Electric Cooperative CEO/President Laura Cutler stated.

M.J.M. Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy — a national alliance of local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives providing high standards of service to members large and small. More than 700 Touchstone Energy cooperatives in 46 states deliver energy and energy solutions to more than 30 million members every day. M.J.M. Electric is committed to providing superior service based on four core principles: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. The co-op serves more than 9,400 meters over 2,117 miles of line in Macoupin, Jersey, Montgomery, Bond, Fayette, Greene and Madison counties. For more information visit www.mjmec.coop. M.J.M. Electric is an equal opportunity provider and employer. 



DIY Savings Project: Insulate and Air Seal Floors Over Unconditioned Garages

By The U.S. Department of Energy

Installing continuous air and thermal barriers between an unconditioned garage and the conditioned spaces above can save energy and money, improve comfort, and safeguard indoor air quality. Your garage may be a source of multiple pollutants, including dangerous carbon monoxide from car exhaust. In addition to careful air sealing and insulating, never leave your car engine running with the garage door closed and store paints, solvents, and other chemicals in tightly sealed containers.

BEFORE YOU START

Before insulating the floor between an unconditioned garage and the conditioned space above, take the time to:


- Carefully air seal all gaps between the garage and the conditioned space above and the garage and the outdoors (the rim/band joist, for example)
- Calculate the amount and determine the R-value of the insulation you will need
- Gather all required tools and materials.



SHOPPING LIST

- Choose materials that don't require specialized equipment or tools to install.
- Blanket insulation
- Wire fasteners
- Tape measure
- Sharp utility knife
- Caulk and foam sealant
- Caulk gun
- Stepladder
- Straightedge
- Respirator or dust mask
- Eye protection
- Protective clothing, including long-sleeved shirt, long pants, closed shoes, and gloves.

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

1. Double-check your insulation
Before opening the packages, verify that the insulation material is the correct width and R-value.
2. Seal air gaps
Before insulating, carefully air seal gaps in the floor between the garage and the conditioned space as well as the garage and the outdoors (rim/band joists, for example). Use caulk for gaps smaller than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and foam for gaps $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to 3 inches. In addition to improving energy efficiency, air sealing also helps keep exhaust fumes and other pollutants out of the conditioned space.
3. Fit insulation between joists
Ensure insulation extends to the outside edge of each joist bay and is in contact with blocking or rim/band joist and the subfloor above. When using kraft-faced batts, install kraft facing against the conditioned side of the cavity. The kraft facing creates a vapor retarder that prevents trapped moisture from reducing the insulation's effectiveness.
4. Adjust insulation for a snug fit
Ensure ends of insulation are butted snugly together and in full contact with the subfloor of the conditioned space above.
5. Fasten the insulation in place
Use wire fasteners to support the insulation so that it is in full contact with the subfloor but not compressed. 

Signed, Sealed, and Delivered!

MJM Presents the FIRST Two Checks to Operation Round Up Grant Winners.

The first-ever MJM Electric Operation Round Up (ORU) Grant was awarded on August 19, 2021. The \$5,000 grant went to the Marine Toys for Tots out of Medora. This grant will assist the program in buying new, unwrapped toys and distribution to less fortunate children at Christmas. The primary goal of Marine Toys for Tots is, through the gift of a new toy, to help bring the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope. Webb Cunningham, a Member of MJM and applicant for the ORU Grant stated, "I was overjoyed with MJM implementing ORU. I immediately opted into this most worthwhile program."

Toys for Tots works primarily on donated money. Cunningham says, "This year, more than in previous years that our program has been in existence, will prove to be a significant challenge. There will be more demand for our help, which we will meet *and* accomplish!" Covid-19 is expected to have a huge impact on the need for assistance for families that before did not require assistance. In 2020, the Toys for Tots campaign based out of Macoupin County experienced an increase of 235 children. Cunningham expects this number to grow even higher by the end of 2021.

The picture to the right captures Communication and Member Service Coordinator Brooke Gross and ORU Grant Review Board Chairwoman Debbi Waters presenting a \$5,000 check to Cunningham.

On that same day, MJM was proud to give a check to Southside Church out of Litchfield for \$2,500. Since 2009, Southside Church has been distributing free school supplies to the community's children through their Education Station ministry event. The church invites Pre-K through 12th grade students to join the event. Due to the high attendance number the event sees each year, they cannot give every single item that a student needs, but does provide the necessary items to help every student.

Carrie Ernst of Litchfield saw on social media the advertisement for available ORU funds. The advertising came at a perfect time. "In recent years, we have been consistently giving school supplies to around 600-800 students, which is an increase from the early years of this ministry. However, the numbers dropped around 550 students in 2020. We feel this is because of the number of students who did remote learning," Ernst stated. However, they are preparing for whatever this new school year may throw at the students. Ernst continued by saying, "This ministry is not based on income and hardly any questions are asked. The only question we ask is what grade the student is going into so that we can assist them with the school supplies based on their needs. Our desire is to help bless the children and their families as much as we can."

Pictured to the left is Pastor Nathan Diveley, Carrie Ernst, Shannon Diveley, and ORU Grant Review Board Vice Chairwoman Valerie Belusko.

MJM Electric's Members voted in favor of implementing ORU at the Annual Meeting in March 2020. In this program, Members who choose to participate have their electric bills rounded up each month. The money raised (an average of \$6 per Member per year) is awarded through grants to non-for-profit 501(c)(3) groups and organizations in or near MJM's service territory. For more information about MJM Electric's Operation Round Up Program or to request more information, contact Gross at 217-707-6028 or visit www.mjmeccoop.com/operation-round.





Tips for a Safe Harvest




By Safe Electricity

Agriculture is the backbone of our country, and our livelihood greatly depends on the crops provided by American farmers. In addition to being one of the most labor-intensive professions, farming is also considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

The hard work and exhaustive labor are tough but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous—even deadly—when farming near electrical equipment.

Every year, we see collisions where tractors and other farming equipment accidentally collide with utility poles and power lines, causing injuries and power outages. These dangerous accidents can be avoided by looking up and around your surroundings when operating large farm machinery. If you're preparing for harvest season, please keep the following safety tips in mind:

- Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.
- Use a spotter and deployed flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other electrical equipment when working in the field.
- If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact 9-1-1 immediately and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab (without touching it), and hop away to safety.
- Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipes and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

September 19-25 is National Farm Health and Safety Week but practicing safety on the farm year-round yields positive results. We hope you never find yourself in a situation where farming equipment contacts power lines or poles, but if you do, we hope you'll remember these safety tips. 



When practicing farm safety, consider all equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Photo Source: Lance Cheung, USDA



In addition to being one of the most labor-intensive professions, farming is also considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the U.S. Photo Source: Bob Nichols, USDA

Notifications YOUR Way!

Sign up for a number of different notifications using our SmartHub app. Pick and choose the ones that you want! Log into SmartHub 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. **IMPORTANT:** All Members who want outage notifications must turn on those specific notifications again due to a recent system update. We apologize for any inconvenience. 🌈

Service Related

Alert Type	Description
New Service Request Created	This is a notification to inform you that you have successfully completed a new service request.
Planned Power Outage	This is a notification to inform you when a power outage is planned.
Power Outage	This is a notification to inform you when a power outage has occurred.
Power Outage Restored	This is a notification to inform you when a power outage has been restored.



Billing Related

Alert Type	Description
Bill Available	This is a notification to inform you when your bill is available in SmartHub.
Billing Change	This is a notification to inform you when you change your billing options from SmartHub.
Credit Card Expiration (new)	This is a notification to inform you when your billing credit card is about to expire.
DQ Notice	This is a notification to inform you when your bill is late in SmartHub.
Declined Auto Pay	This is a notification to inform you that your automatic credit card payment was not processed.
Payment Arrangement Due	This notification will notify you when your payment arrangement is due.
Payment Confirmation	This is a notification to inform you we received your payment submission.
Payment Posted	Occurs when your payment has posted to your account.
Payment Reminder	This is a notification to inform you that you have an upcoming payment due date.



Miscellaneous

Alert Type	Description
Auto Pay	This is a notification users receive when they request an autopay change.
Contact	This is a notification users receive upon submitting a contact item.
Hint Question Change	This is a notification to inform you when you change your hint question from SmartHub.
Login Credentials Change	This is a notification to inform you when you change your e-mail address or password from SmartHub.
Personal Info Change	This is a notification users receive upon submitting a personal info change.
Registration	This is a notification users receive upon registration.
Unsubscribe	This is a notification to inform you when you unsubscribe from SmartHub.



Transmission and Distribution Industry Material Costs

Keeping MJM Members in the Know

As everyone is well aware, this year has been unprecedented, and the utility industry is feeling the effects. We have all experienced the results of a worldwide pandemic and the labor and material shortages due to the shutdowns and safety protocols. This, coupled with record breaking housing markets and a commercial/industrial boom, has led to longer lead times, overall material shortages, and rapidly growing material cost.

Key commodity indexes, freight, container availability, and a lack of labor continue to impact the cost and ability to service the transmission & distribution industry. Steel prices continue to set new records, with costs year-over-year increasing by more than 250% and shattering any forecasting model used to establish previous price increases. The volatility in the metals markets, along with this increased demand, has led to pricing at time of shipment from some manufacturers, which is a somewhat new concept, and further adds to the difficulty of our suppliers trying to hold our purchase pricing firm.

Resins and other plastics have settled at record highs, while supply is still not matching demand. Freight and logistic (container) costs are far exceeding any previous rates, in many cases costing 6-8 times paid just earlier this year, with availability not expected to improve until early 2022. Typical sea voyages of 4-6 weeks are now 13-16 weeks with many missed port pickups. Container costs normally in the \$2-\$3000 range are now being quoted at 5-6 times that rate. Finally, the ability to attract workers over the last year and a half, has required wage increases of more than 5% on an annual basis.

First and foremost, our suppliers are working to make sure we have the products we need available to ship as required. This may mean different manufacturers than normal but if this occurs, we have been assured that they'll only supply products that live up to the Cooperative standards.

Second, MJM was proactive by ordering a surplus of crucial material earlier in the year with our expected future needs. We will continue to communicate our imminent material needs and "need by dates" as early and accurately as possible. This will allow our vendors purchasing and sales teams to allocate our resources so our Members can keep the lights on.

We appreciate the diligent work our suppliers are doing to provide the material we need and mitigate the increases as best as they can. However, they are operating in unprecedented times and the costs are beyond their control. 🌈