



 along the  lines

Vol. 12, No. 12 December 2019 www.mjmec.coop

From the Directors, CEO, and Employees of MJM Electric Cooperative

*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!*

Are you a winner?

There are four chances to win a \$25 Bill Credit! Four account numbers are hidden in the Newsletter. Simply search to see if you're a winner. If it's your account number, comment on our Facebook page #HolidayWinner or call 217-707-6156.

**Credit must be claimed by December 31, 2019*

MJM Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

264 N. East St., Carlinville, IL 62626

Office 1-800-648-4729

Pay by Phone 1-855-313-6314

Office Hours

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



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Jennifer Peterson.....Executive

Administrator

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 1-800-648-4729. Collect calls
will be accepted to report outages.
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.

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CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS!

MJM Needs Your Help!

Can you believe how fast 2019 has gone by? It's hard to believe that I have worked at MJM for nearly a full year! What a year it has been, too. From planning the 80th Annual meeting to advocating for new programs, like Operation Round Up, this job has been anything *but* boring.

As we march into 2020, MJM is going to see a few changes. The biggest change is going to be our new location. Because of our ever-growing Membership, we needed to create a bigger location to fully serve you as best as we can. With that, I need your help in decorating the inside of your new headquarters.

In the new headquarters, we have long hallways that need photos! Because of this, I am holding a photo contest for those Members that have pictures related to MJM Electric. For instance, maybe you have a neat harvest photo with our lines in the background, our linemen working to better your service or even a beautiful sunset. It doesn't matter if these photos were taken in 1939 or yesterday. Whatever you have that is related to MJM, I want them! (39700)

Without our Members, MJM wouldn't be the Co-op we are so fortunate to be. We want to honor that and have your photos represent who we serve. Please email your photos to brookeg@mjmec.coop, send them by mail to Brooke Gross, P.O. Box 80, Carlinville, IL, 62626 or drop them by the office. Please submit photos by February 3rd. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out by calling 217-707-6028. I look forward to seeing the photos and hearing the stories behind them.



By Brooke Gross, Communication and Member Service Coordinator




Safely Lighting Up the Holiday Season

The holiday season just would not be the same for many people without the bright and colorful light displays that decorate houses and city streets alike. Unfortunately, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reports that thousands of people are sent to the emergency room every holiday season because of injuries sustained from lighting and decorating. Safe Electricity provides tips for those who are undertaking holiday lighting and decorating projects to help them do safely.

Begin by checking that every strand of lights has been tested and approved by an official lab and make sure the cord is rated for where it will be used — whether indoors or outside. Examine each strand for any fraying or damage. To prevent possible electrical shocks or fires, do not use any damaged cords. Typically, one extension cord should only have three strands of lights connected to it at most, but you should also check that the extension cord is rated for its intended use.

Lights and decorations that are outdoors should be plugged into an outlet with ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection. A GFCI can protect you from electrical shock from damaged or defective decorations, or accidental electrical contact with water. GFCIs can be installed in a circuit breaker box or in an outlet and can be used anywhere you need it with the portable version. They should be permanently installed in areas near water. This includes: bathrooms, kitchens, garages, basements, and the outdoors. GFCIs should be used with all outdoor decorations to prevent accidental injury.

Also, consider switching to LED lighting, which produces light without the heat of conventional incandescent bulbs and has more durable and shatter-proof lenses than the glass lenses of incandescent lighting. LED lighting may have a higher initial cost than traditional incandescent lights (an LED strand can cost around twice as much). However, at 25,000 hours and up, it also has an effective lifespan 25 times that of incandescent lights.

In addition, extra caution should be exercised when using a ladder as you decorate outside. Always look up and look out for overhead power lines, and always keep yourself and any tools, like ladders, a minimum 10-foot distance away. By keeping these safety guidelines in mind, you can help ensure a safe and injury free holiday season for you and your family. For more safety tips, visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.safeelectricity.org). 

MJM Takes First Place!

Although Halloween was over a month away, MJM is still proud of their first-place ranking! Each year, Carlinville Rotary hosts a Halloween Parade. The parade took place on Sunday, October 27th. The theme of the parade was "Scary Movies". Multiple businesses, organizations and individuals took part in celebrating the spooky month with decorating floats. (1047201) MJM kept the 80th celebration alive with a Wizard of Oz theme.



MJM's float took first place in Commercial Float - "Scary how fast time goes by? Celebrating 80 years of service with the Wizard of Oz." Walking in the parade was Brayden Brinkoetter, Jaycee Brinkoetter, Meleah Brinkoetter, Communication and Member Service Coordinator Brooke Gross, Caleb Gross, Kendra Cox and Bruce Cox. Driving the truck was Electronic Technician Conner Mitchell, Breanna Mitchell, Mack Mitchell and Macy Mitchell. Of course, where would the fun be if their four-legged friends weren't involved? The dogs Mic, Bailey and Benji were also dressed up for the parade. Dorothy wouldn't truly be herself if Toto didn't tag along. Toto was played by the Brinkoetter's yorkie Roxy. 🐕



Electronic Gift Guide

By Abby Berry, NRECA

This holiday season, give the gift of tech! If you're searching for the latest gadgets and electronics to gift but don't know where to start, we've got you covered.

Here's a list of ideas for your tech-savvy friends and family members, and with a range of prices and interests, there's sure to be something for everyone. (1172100)

Gifts for those on the go: We all have that one friend who never stays in one place, so they'll appreciate gifts that keep them charged and entertained while on the go.



A portable charger (or power bank) can keep their smart phones and tablets juiced, and the good news is this gift won't drain your wallet. You can purchase portable chargers online or at local retailers for as low as \$20. Typically, these compact devices can fully charge an iPhone three times before running out of steam.

A Bluetooth speaker is another great gift to keep those on the go entertained. Whether they're listening to their favorite tunes or watching the latest flick, Bluetooth speakers can clarify and amplify volume to satisfy any media enthusiast. Prices range depending on features, but you can purchase a quality Bluetooth speaker online or at local retailers for as low as \$30.

Gifts for the chef: Every foodie knows that temperature matters when mastering the perfect cut of meat. A Bluetooth-connected thermometer can help your chef ensure a delicious (and safe-to-eat) meal. Just download the associated app and keep an eye on the grill right from your smart phone or tablet. Prices vary from \$30 to \$200, but you can purchase these handy gadgets online or at any big box store, like Wal-Mart or Target.

A digital kitchen scale is a must for any culinary pro. No more guessing—the easy-to-read digital screen ensures the exact weight or amount required for that perfect dish. Prices vary depending on the weight the scale can handle, but you can find a 13-pound max weight scale for about \$20 on Amazon.com.

Gifts for the pet owner: Let's face it—pet owners would be lost without their fur babies. Luckily, pet tracking products continue to advance, so pet owners can always keep a watchful eye on their furry friends. Most trackers simply attach to your pet's collar. Prices vary depending on the tracker's capabilities, but some features include water resistance, health monitoring and exceptional battery life. You can purchase pet trackers online or at your local pet store.

Speaking of keeping an eye on pets, you can also purchase surveillance cameras for real-time monitoring—some cameras even allow you to toss treats to your furry friend while you're away. Additional features include a microphone (so you can talk to your pets), a built-in laser toy (for our feline friends) and the ability to snap a photo or take video from your smart phone. Prices vary depending on the bells and whistles, but you can purchase a pet camera for as low as \$40 on Amazon.com.



With so many electronics available today, you're sure to find the perfect gift for your tech-savvy loved ones. Happy shopping! 🎁

Chamber of Commerce Award

Scholarship Applications Due by December 31st!

MJM will award two \$1,000 scholarships to sons and daughters of MJM Members. The applicant must be a high school senior who is planning to enroll in a full-time (at least 12 hours) undergraduate course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university, community college, or vocational/technical school in the United States.

By applying to our MJM Scholarship Program, you will also be entered into the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarship Program. (285802)

The total of twelve scholarships of \$2,000 each will be awarded in 2020 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarship Program. Six scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons and daughters of an Illinois Electric Cooperative Member receiving service from the Cooperative. A seventh scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois Electric Cooperative employee or director. Four additional scholarships are served for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric Cooperative Members, employees or directors.

For the application and more information, please visit www.mjmec.coop. **Applications are due by December 31st.** If you have questions, call Brooke Gross at 217-707-6028. 

'Twas the Week Before Christmas

'Twas the week before Christmas, when all through the halls,
Not one Co-op employee was resting, they were answering your calls.
The electric system was working, providing power for Christmas light,
In hopes that St. Nicholas would find his way on a dark, freezing night.

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of new electronics danced in their heads.
With mom changing laundry and the TV remote in dads lap,
The cell phones were charging, giving texting a long needed nap.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
Dad sprang from the couch to see what was the matter.
Away to the security cameras he flew like a flash,
Took a look, opened the doors and realized he forgot to take out the trash.

Mom was out blowing the new fallen snow,
Not realizing there were extension cords lying below.
When suddenly all the lights in the house began to disappear,
There was an open fuse or worse, dad began to fear.

He went to the basement to fix the fuse quick,
But nothing happened, not even the water heater went click.
He recognized a problem when down the kids came,
And began complaining about no power for their video game.

Dad unplugged his iPhone to make that important call,
But unfortunately, it was dead, despite being plugged into the wall.
A predicament, certainly, he thought to himself "wow",
He was missing the power he always expected now.

With the rev of an engine, he heard with great cheer,
He looked out the window and saw MJM Electric was here.
Out stepped the linemen all dressed in safety protection,
They told dad it wasn't just his house, it was the entire section.

They worked fast and worked safe to bring back the light,
They spliced and they fixed with all of their might.
Then in a twinkling, the lights came back on,
And before we all knew it, the linemen had gone.

Thank goodness for dedication, Member service and care,
Mom again would be able to blow dry her hair.
As the MJM Electric truck disappeared out of sight,
We heard them exclaim, "Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!"

Originated from Carrie Vugteveen of Sioux Valley Energy 

Member Trading Post

FOR SALE: (2) Carters by Davinci four in one convertible cribs with conversion kit. Brand new and still in the box. Both are grey in color. (2) Mattress to go with it. Each is \$250 O.B.O. Samsung dryer brand new 7.5 cubic feet. Electric and still in box. \$500 Little Tikes Cape Cottage play house. Brand new and in box. \$60 O.B.O. Hardly ever used pool table. Spencer Marston Billiards Co. Comes with sticks, racks and all pool balls. Please call for price. If interested, please call 618-888-2335.

FOR SALE: Ceiling fan, brown, 42". Light fixture with 3 lights. \$25.00. Light fixture, 24" wagon wheel with 5 glass globes. \$15.00. Four bar stools, 26" high

to seat, oak wood with back/arms and white padded seat. \$40.00 each. Call 217-371-4636.

FOR SALE: King Size Easy Rest Bed. It has two variable speed waves massage with 20-minute timer with hand control. Head and feet go up. Please call 618-885-5653

FOR SALE: Dehydrators \$5 each, work well Large sack of girls winter clothes size 8-10 including winter coat \$10. Please call 217-556-5361.

FOR SALE: Homemade, loaded trailer. 5 x 7. New lights and no title. Asking for \$275. Call 217-324-3869

To list your free ad, email brookeg@mjmec.coop, call 1-800-648-4729, or mail the ad to MJM Electric Cooperative, 264 N. East St., P.O. Box 80, Carlinville, IL 62626. Each ad will run for one month. Some restriction may apply. Thank you.

Happy Holidays!

Office Closings:

December 24th
(Closing at noon)

December 25th

December 31st
(Closing at noon)

January 1st