




# Clinton County Connection

45

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner Published by Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. • [cceci@cceci.com](mailto:cceci@cceci.com) • [www.cceci.com](http://www.cceci.com)*Mike Johnson*

**Visit our cooperative website of [www.cceci.com](http://www.cceci.com) to conveniently pay your electric bill.**

## Municipal electric aggregation

There has been much discussion about electric aggregation in the state of Illinois recently. Referendums have appeared on dozens of township/village ballots to allow local governments to aggregate the purchase of electricity from alternative electric marketers. Trenton, New Baden and Aviston had such a referendum on their March ballots and the referendum passed in all three villages.

Marketers are sending out mailers and making house calls to persuade consumers to purchase electricity from them with the lure of big savings. In many cases, marketers are able to save consumers money in the short-term, but consumers must read the fine print to avoid additional costs or cancellation fees. These marketers generally do not have any “brick and mortar” assets. They are able to save consumers money by buying electricity from the market when the prices are low. When the market price of power inevitably goes up, will the marketers still be selling electricity in Illinois? If so, at what cost?

Due to the current poor economy, the market price of power is often below the actual cost to generate the electric power. When the economy improves, new regulations kick in, or when natural gas prices increase, we will experience significant increases in electric market prices.

Many cooperative members may wonder why Clinton County Electric’s kWh charge has not come down when the market price of power has gone down. Your cooperative buys its power from Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), a generation and transmission cooperative based in Marion, Ill. SIPC makes long-term decisions in order to provide power for today and TOMORROW. By owning generating assets and having long-term and short-term

contracts, SIPC can maintain a more stable price for its cooperative members. Southern Illinois Power Cooperative owns “bricks and mortar” generating assets that will supply electricity to Clinton County Electric for many years to come.

On a personal note, it seems to me that all things in the electric utility industry seem to come full circle at some point. This abundance of cheap market power drove the energy markets in the early 2000’s. A rather large and sinister company arose during that cheap power market – Enron. I was working for a distribution cooperative in Southern Nevada when the power markets changed drastically in a period of a couple of days. At the time, that cooperative was purchasing about 85% of its energy needs from Enron. We didn’t realize that Enron didn’t have any “bricks & mortar” generating assets, but rather a series of contracts with “fly by night” power marketers. Within those couple of days, energy prices skyrocketed. Those “fly by night” power marketers went out of business and simply walked away from their commitments. Enron informed the cooperative I was working for on a Monday that beginning on the upcoming Friday they would have to find another power supplier since Enron would have no power available to deliver to them. There was definitely PANIC in the energy markets. Replacement power was extremely expensive and in the long run, this cost that distribution cooperative’s members. Needless to say, Enron eventually filed for bankruptcy and the lawsuit parade started. I am not saying for a fact that the energy markets will explode like they did in the early 2000’s, but things are looking a little too eerily familiar to me.

*(Continued on page 16c)*

# Youth to Washington

At the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Annual Meeting in Chicago in 1957, Senator Lyndon Baines Johnson addressed the crowd stating, "If one thing goes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents." Soon thereafter, Illinois sent a busload of young people to Washington. By 1964, approximately 400 students from 12 states made the trip to DC. The word of the program continued to spread, and today, over 1,500 students and their chaperones participate in the Youth Tour every year.

The program is stronger than ever and Clinton County Electric Cooperative was proudly represented by three outstanding youth on this year's "Youth to Washington" Tour held from June 15-22nd. Maddy Mensing, Kelsey Knolhoff and Shannon Mensing, all children of CCECI members, loaded a motor coach in Mt. Vernon early Friday morning, June 15, and started what was an eye-opening experience by seeing numerous DC area attractions and monuments, learning more about electric cooperatives and creating countless friendships which will last for many years to come.

Over 1500 youth from all over the United States gathered at the Hyatt Regency Hotel one morning for the Youth Day assembly to hear phenomenal speakers. Former Nebraska State Senator David Landis provided a vibrant historical portrayal of US Senator George W Norris. Senator Norris saw the need for the enactment of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) which gave rise to the rural electric cooperatives and public power. The students were also privileged to hear keynote speaker Mike Schlappi, who delivered an inspiring message from his wheelchair. Mr. Schlappi was accidentally shot at age 14 and doctors told him he would never walk again. Prior to



*L to r are Shannon Mensing, Kelsey Knolhoff, and Maddy Mensing, pictured with US Representative John Shimkus while visiting our Nation's Capitol in June.*

his accident, he was dreaming of a career as a top American athlete. In his message he stated, "Just because you can't stand up, doesn't mean you can't stand out." His message was inspiring for the young and old.

The week in Washington DC was action-packed with over 70 students and 8 chaperones representing cooperatives from the entire state of Illinois. They all traveled together to visit such sites as the Capitol Building, Gettysburg, Arlington National Cemetery, the Washington National Cathedral, several Smithsonian Museums, the US Holocaust Museum, the WW II Memorial, memorial to Presidents Lincoln, Jefferson, Washington, and Roosevelt, the Newseum and numerous other historical locations. A highlight of the trip was the opportunity to meet our United States Representatives and Senators. Maddy, Kelsey and Shannon were able to personally meet with US Congressmen John Shimkus and Jerry F Costello, and US Senator Dick Durbin.

The Youth Program allows today's students to experience government first-hand by visiting Capitol Hill and seeing the historical sites in

Washington DC. Maddy, Kelsey and Shannon, along with all of the Illinois students who attended, did not want this awesome week to end. They made long-lasting friendships and will remember their week of learning more about our wonderful nation for a very long time.

Each year Clinton County Electric sponsors two students to attend this week-long all expense paid educational trip. Children of Board of Trustee members and employees are eligible to attend at their own expense. The program is kicked off each year in February with "Youth Day" in Springfield and followed by the trip to Washington DC in June. Information about next year's trip will be available in the December issue of our newsletter or can be found on our website at [www.cceci.com](http://www.cceci.com) under the Youth Programs tab. See page 9 of this publication for additional photos from this year's "Youth to Washington" Tour.

## Municipal electric aggregation continued from 16a

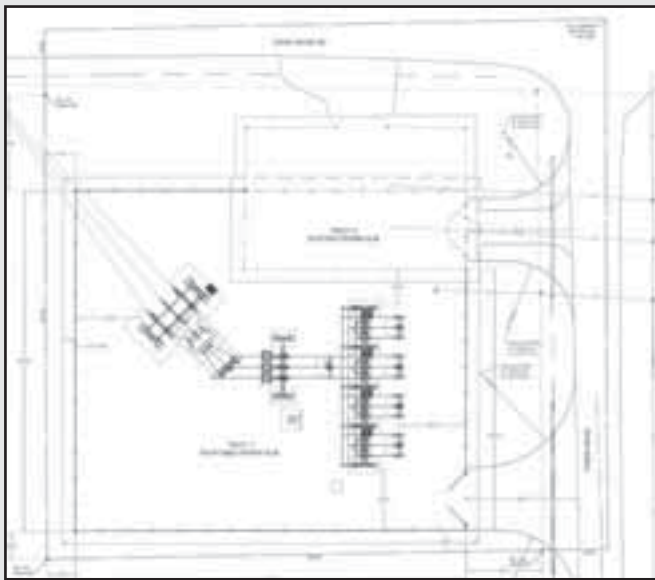
Generally, experts all agree that the market price of power will go up; it's not a question of "if", but rather a question of "when".

For those members who live in the Ferrin/Shattuc areas, you will see a considerable amount of work being done at our Ferrin Substation. We have just started the process of building a new substation just to the south of the current substation. In the next couple of months, we will inform you on the many benefits the new substation will provide for members in that

area.

Please remember, all initiatives we embark upon always have our members' best interest in mind. Providing our members with safe, reliable and affordable electricity while at the same time providing excellent customer service continues to be our goal. As always, if you have any comments or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me at Johnson@cceci.com.

## System improvement projects continue ...



One of many system improvement projects that CCEC aims to complete this year is a re-build of the Ferrin Substation. The original substation was jammed into a small .35 acre lot when originally built in late 1940's to keep a compact profile. As equipment has evolved, work/safety practices have changed, and the load at CCEC has grown, it is now time for an upgrade. A new, larger substation will be constructed adjacent to the existing substation. Additional ground was purchased several years ago as inklings of the need to rebuild were first perceived, giving us a total 1.0 Acre area to build. The design for the new substation is very similar to the Old State Substation that was constructed in 2007 roughly a mile north of Breese along Jamestown Road, and will allow easy access to all portions of the substation, and also improved clearances for safety and workability.



## Nuts to you – for a healthier diet

Hungry for a quick snack? Nuts are tasty, convenient, and healthy. Their fiber and unsaturated fats can help lower LDL ("bad cholesterol") levels, and they contain omega-3 fatty acids and vitamin E, both good for the heart.

Just choose wisely. Although all nuts have health benefits, they're best eaten raw or dry-roasted, not covered with chocolate, salt, or sugar. Here's the breakdown on some of the most popular nuts (roasted, serving size 1 ounce):

- Almonds: 169 calories; 15 grams of fat (1.1 grams saturated vs. 12.9 grams unsaturated)
- Cashews: 163 calories; 13.1 grams of fat (2.6 g vs. 10 g)
- Macadamia nuts: 204 calories; 21.6 grams of fat (3.4 g vs. 17.2 g)
- Peanuts: 166 calories; 14 grams of fat (2 g vs. 11.4 g)

## Spotlight on Kevin Kampwerth

Board of Trustee member Kevin Kampwerth, a lifelong Carlyle resident, was born and raised on a dairy farm. He resides north of Carlyle with his wife, LuAlice (Holland) of 29 years. His daughter, Whitney, is a May 2012 University of Illinois College of Law graduate. Kevin has worked for Huels Oil of Carlyle for 31 years and is currently their Bulk Plant Manager. Kevin is also a grain farmer and enjoys restoring antique Farmall tractors and tractor pulling. During the month of July, you probably saw Kevin volunteering at the Clinton County Fair. Kevin has received his NRECA Board Leadership Certification and continues attending classes. He is the son of Roland and Rose Mary Kampwerth of Carlyle.



**In observance of Labor Day,  
the office will be CLOSED on  
Monday, September 3rd**



**SOMETIMES KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES  
IS ABOUT KEEPING YOUR ELECTRIC BILLS DOWN.**



When you save energy, it helps our entire co-op lower its costs.  
Find out what you can do at [TOGETHERWESAVE.COM](http://TOGETHERWESAVE.COM)