



Jo-Carroll Energy • Elizabeth, Illinois • 800-858-5522 • www.jocarroll.com

JO-CARROLL

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  **HI-LINES**



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Michael Hastings

Working together to save energy

The late afternoon sun can turn power lines into threads of light stretching across the countryside, connecting farms and towns. More than just wires and poles, these lines stand for something. They are symbols of determination and innovation. The light — the power — they brought to rural areas spurred cooperation and growth.

Cooperatives are grounded in the notion of working together. It was true when farmers and residents banded together to bring electricity to the rural countryside in the 1930s. It's true today. We all can keep the cooperative spirit alive in your co-op by working together to save energy.

Energy efficiency isn't a new concept for cooperatives. Your co-op is your best source of information for energy efficiency ideas. We use every way we can to provide you with that knowledge — from these pages each month to bill inserts to classroom presentations.

We can help get you started with ideas for energy efficiency projects. Even small measures will save money. Start with the basics: apply weather stripping and caulk around windows and doors; replace traditional light bulbs with CFLs; insulate your water heater. Then look to some bigger items: add insulation to your attic; seal ductwork; replace appliances with more energy-efficient models.

You can find even more ways to save on the U.S. Department of Energy's EnergySavers.gov or at Touchstone Energy's togetherwesave.com. Links to these resources and more efficiency ideas and tips can be found on our website at www.jocarroll.com. Helping our members save money is important to us.

Investing in efficiency also includes what we do here at Jo-Carroll Energy. Installing advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) will ultimately provide us with tools to enhance operational efficiencies, while upgrading power lines and replacing transformers maintain reliability.

The sense of community on which co-ops were built thrives today. As members we can all lend a hand saving energy, working together to ensure a brighter tomorrow with reliable, affordable electricity for all. If you're interested in more information on how to make your home more energy-efficient, let us know. Connecting you with energy efficiency ideas to help keep electric bills affordable is just another way your cooperative is looking out for you.

Those poles and lines are yours. They come with a history. And they come with a responsibility. It's up to all of us to take care of what we have and use only what we need. It's the right thing to do; it's the cooperative way.

Reader Prize

Each month we print the name of a Jo-Carroll Energy member who is eligible to win a monthly \$25 readership prize. If your name is printed in this month's edition, and not a part of any article, contact Jo-Carroll Energy and claim your prize no later than the 10th of the month following publication.

Office hours

Elizabeth Office
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Savanna Office
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Both Offices
Monday - Friday
800-858-5522

For all outages and emergencies call
800-927-5254



Office Closings

Our offices will be closed on Monday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day



Resume of Minutes

Regular Board Meeting • April 27, 2011

The board met at the Cooperative headquarters in Elizabeth, Illinois on Wednesday, April 27, 2011. This is a summary of the meeting activities. The Agenda and the Consent Agenda were approved.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Joe Mattingley welcomed new director, Larry Carroll, District 9 Director. He discussed the Legislative Conference to be held in Washington, D.C. on May 1 – 4, 2011. He discussed committee appointments and getting involved on a national basis in natural gas policy issues.

Dairyland Report

Director Stadel reported that not much was said about the wholesale rate study at the Dairyland Board of Directors meeting for March. He did comment on issues raised through the directors' Self-Assessment.

AIEC Report

Director Senn reported that the AIEC did not meet during the month of April. He did state that he reviewed essays for AIEC scholarships and that process is proceeding. Strategic Activity—Director Werner reviewed Policy 101 entitled Communications. A motion was made, seconded carried unanimously to approve the policy as presented with a minor change.

CEO's Report

The CEO reported on the following:

- a. **Financial Operating Report** – The CEO reported that the Cooperative had an unaudited margin for March of \$46,092.00. By general consent the financial report was filed for audit as reviewed.
- b. **Power Supply Report** – The CEO reported on filings made by Interstate Power and Light (IPL) for rate increases and stated that he will be visiting Dairyland Power to discuss proposed rate increases and various changes in rate calculations which could impact members.
- c. **Danisco Update** – Hastings commented that it is clear that rates

charged in Illinois are higher than those in Iowa. The CEO and staff continue to work on resolving those differences.

- d. **Biomass Plant Update** – Hastings advised that he expected the air permit to be issued for the biomass plant by the Illinois EPA within the next two months. He advised that funding through the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) will probably not work due to delays at the RUS with an environmental assessment. Bids for major equipment continue to come in favorably.
- e. **Farmers Mutual Report** – Hastings reported that Southeastern Data Cooperative (SEDC) continues to work to finalize contract terms and obtain signatures thereon.
- f. **TCEDA Update** – The CEO reported that interviews of candidates for Executive Director were completed but did not lead to a final choice. Efforts continue to work with the Executive Committee of TCEDA to provide for an Executive Director under a contract.
- g. **Spring Collections Update** – Moved to May meeting.
- h. **CFO Report** – CFO reported that an extension has been filed for the corporation income tax return, Form 990. The CFO is evaluating banking services and the costs thereof.
- i. **CAO Report** – The CAO stated that the previous report on TCEDA was the main portion of his report. He stated that his other projects are moving forward and took questions from board members.
- j. **COO Report** – The COO reported on the Metform substation which should be energized by June 14th. He described upgrades to the security system at company facilities and provided a report on Sand Prairie Wireless. He discussed Automated Meter Reading (AMR) and Automated

Meter Infrastructure (AMI). He is working on a live outage map for member access in outages.

- k. **External Affairs Update** – The General Counsel reported on ongoing efforts in Washington to identify a budget acceptable to a majority. He discussed the upcoming 2011 NRECA Legislative Conference. He discussed issues to be focused on at the conference.
- l. **Board Issues**
- m. **Ratification of Authorized Representative** – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to ratify the appointment of the CEO as the representative for the IL Workers Compensation Group and Rochdale Services, Inc. at a meeting held on April 14, 2011.
- n. **Delegates to Dairyland's Annual Meeting, June 8, 2011** – A motion was made, seconded and carried to appoint delegates to Dairyland Power's Annual Meeting in La Crosse on June 8, 2011.
- o. **NRECA International Foundation Donation** – A motion was made, seconded and carried to make a contribution for 2011 to the NRECA International Foundation.
- p. **Committee Assignments** – The Chairman reviewed his appointments to committees for 2011.
- q. **Discuss the Performance Evaluation Process for the President and CEO** – The Chairman requested that directors return their CEO performance evaluation forms to the General Counsel no later than May 26th.
- r. **Review of Form 990** – Moved to May meeting.

Reports—The Board received various reports of board activities since the last meeting.

Jo-Carroll Energy partnerships for Successful Communities

Community growth is essential to Jo-Carroll Energy's stability. As part of a "Successful Communities" initiative focusing on ways to utilize cooperative staff and expertise in support of community projects, the cooperative recently partnered with the city of Mt. Carroll for a session on governance.

During the two-night session, Jo-Carroll Energy senior staff members Russ Simpson, senior vice president and chief administrative officer, and John Cox, vice president of external affairs and general counsel, presented information about governance and establishing rules of procedure.

Why is Jo-Carroll Energy interested in doing this? "The return can be so big," Simpson said. Addressing the council, he added: "You all depend on other communities just as communities depend on us. Jo-Carroll Energy needs to have a growing membership to maintain the infrastructure to supply reliable power. You face the same thing. The bottom line is in the census data."

He referenced 2010 census data that shows an 11.3 percent decline in population for Mt. Carroll over

the past 30 years. It is a trend that is repeated throughout the towns of Carroll County, including 32.4 and 35.2 percent declines in Savanna and Thomson. "The building is falling down around us; we're not doing enough to reverse the trend," Simpson said.

"We're losing population; our kids aren't staying in our communities. They're going elsewhere to find jobs," Cox noted. "What we have concluded is that if you bring success to an individual community that will lead to success across the board, it will enhance the quality of life. Our board unanimously decided if Jo-Carroll Energy can be of assistance to our communities that we ought to be doing that."

The purpose of the session was not to talk about issues but about governance, Simpson said. He drew a comparison between a city council, the typical structure of a corporation and a not-for-profit organization noting that all are very similar from a peer governance standpoint. He stressed the importance of a mission statement and an excellent governance process.

"If you have that, all the rest of the issues will take care of themselves."

A group could have a broad spectrum of thoughts, concerns and perspectives, but with a reference to a mission, should be able to achieve a consensus, and make decisions that are in the best interest of the community, he noted.

Topics covered in the session included effective decision-making, teamwork and consensus, roles and responsibilities and processes. The second night provided general information on legal obligations and more detailed information on the Open Meetings Act, Freedom of Information Act, ethics and conflict of interest and financial processes and responsibilities.

The Jo-Carroll Energy Successful Communities projects range from providing governance training for community councils and civic boards to serving on boards such as the Campbell Center, to assisting with specific economic development projects throughout the cooperative's service territory.

Piggly Wiggly earns rebate check for upgrades



John Scott (left), Jo-Carroll Energy energy advisor, and Ken Sivertsen (right), Jo-Carroll Energy key accounts manager, present a rebate check to Dave McCabe, store manager of the Galena Piggly Wiggly. The Piggly Wiggly store received a \$1,700 rebate for installing anti-sweat heater controls and ECM motors in refrigeration cases. Craig Genske, manager of maintenance services for Piggly Wiggly Midwest, said the upgrade, similar to projects completed in other Piggly Wiggly Stores, is anticipated to result in significant energy savings.

Give your home's energy use a vacation when you're on vacation

Going on vacation? Even if you plan to be away just a few days, you can save energy in your home when you travel. Here are some tips from Jo-Carroll Energy that can give your utility bill a break when you take a break.

Water heater. Turn down the temperature, so it doesn't keep the water warm while you are away.

Thermostat. During hot weather, turn up the thermostat on your air conditioning system. That way, you'll save energy while ensuring that your home doesn't get too warm. If you're away during the winter, lower the temperature on your furnace. The house can be as cool as 50 degrees without the risk of your pipes freezing.

Refrigerator. Depending on food stored in your fridge, you may be able to turn the thermostat as high as 38 degrees without risking spoilage. Storing water-filled bottles in your refrigerator can prevent temperature fluctuations, which will save energy. Food in the freezer compartment will stay frozen if the temperature remains at minus 5 degrees.

Lights. Turn off all lights in your home. You may want to install timers on one or two lights for security.

Electronics. Unless you're recording something while away, unplug all of your electronic devices—computer, monitor and printer, TV and cable boxes, DVD player, microwave, and digital clocks. Any electronics with digital displays, instant-on features, or remote controls will consume energy even if they're not in use.



For other tips on how to save energy—and money—visit www.energysavers.gov or www.TogetherWeSave.com

or call the efficiency experts at Jo-Carroll Energy at 800-858-5522.



Energy efficiency

Tip of the Month

Consider using solar lights for outdoor lighting. Solar cells convert sunlight into electricity that can be stored in a battery and tapped at night to make light. Check manufacturers' instructions to make sure your solar lights are situated to receive sufficient sunlight to recharge each day.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Jo-Carroll Energy

793 U.S. Route 20 West • P.O. Box 390
Elizabeth, Illinois 61028-0390

Keep safety in mind when landscaping

Transformers or electric and natural gas meters aren't the most attractive elements in your yard but serve an important purpose. Some folks don't like these and try to hide them with bushes, fences or flowerbeds. But, for your safety and your family's, stay clear and avoid landscaping around this equipment so it remains accessible.

Jo-Carroll Energy recommends leaving at least 10 feet of clear space in front of pad-mount transformers. Allow at least three to four feet of space on both sides and behind the transformer.

Keep these tips in mind when planning your landscaping:

- Keep outdoor meters clear of any landscaping that obstructs access or visibility. Shrubs and plants that are near your meter should be trimmed regularly
- Do not plant vines or thorny bushes around utility equipment, and keep any type of plant neatly pruned.
- Do not build decking or fencing that blocks access to the meter.
- Instruct children not to climb on or play near a meter.
- In the winter, carefully clear ice and snow from the meter as well as any appliance exhaust vents.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

You should never dig anywhere in your yard without first calling the Illinois One-Call System, JULIE, at 8-1-1 or 800-892-0123. Know what's below. Call before you dig.

My.connectSP.com allows users to customize and share content Sand Prairie Wireless launches new web portal

Sand Prairie Wireless, a service of Jo-Carroll Energy and provider of wireless broadband Internet, recently unveiled a dynamic new web portal that helps users "connect to their community."

"We're so excited about our new web portal. It emulates everything that Sand Prairie Wireless is about: enhancing the quality of life for our members, providing them with technology and connecting our community in one convenient place," said Jeff Harrelson, manager of broadband services.

More than a standard website, my.connectSP.com provides a wealth of resources conveniently accessible in one location: local and national news, weather, community events, entertainment, sports, financial updates, classified ads and live radio streaming.

What makes the site even more dynamic? Interaction by its users. Everyone is welcome to log in and join the community for free. When



users sign up for a free membership to the site, they also gain the power to create and customize their own "My Page," with options ranging from changing the color and layout to incorporating a lengthy list of gadgets. Social media links (including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube,

LinkedIn and Flickr), horoscopes, trivia, Sudoku, cartoons, a calendar, to do list, favorites link buttons, stock trackers, Google maps, text translation and a dictionary are just a few of the extras that can be easily employed in the user's custom page.

Sand Prairie Wireless subscribers enjoy even more site benefits. Users who are subscribers to the wireless broadband Internet service can easily access their web email through this site, post free classified ads and upload and share photos and videos as well as events and news stories (subject to terms and conditions).

The site also provides support and outlines services to enhance the user's online experience. Technical terminology, trouble shooting, access to 24/7/365 technical support and cutting-edge product information are easy to access.

Water and electricity are a deadly mix — especially around pools, boat docks

The summer water recreation season brings enjoyment, but unfortunately can be awash with tragic realities of electrical hazards around swimming pools and boat docks.

In 2010, four Indiana teens were swimming near a boat dock when they all felt a tingle. All hurried to the dock to escape the water, but one grabbed for a ladder that had become energized from faulty wiring and suffered a fatal electric shock.

The untimely death of the teen serves as a warning for swimmers to be on the lookout for similar dangers. Injuries and fatalities can also occur aboard watercraft.

Boat docks and swimming pools are frequently wired for lighting and other power needs. Weather and wear can expose wiring and deadly voltage can invisibly energize water. The result of contact between water and electricity can be serious, even deadly. In most instances, if potential safety hazards are taken into consideration and handled proactively, accidents and deaths could be avoided.

An important step to ensure safety around swimming pools and boat docks is to include ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection. Make sure the GFCI is professionally installed to prevent shock, electrocution and injury.

If you plan to go boating or fishing this summer, be aware of your surroundings and potential electrical hazards.

Always check the location of nearby power lines — contact between your boat and a power line could be devastating. Maintain a distance of at least 10 feet between your boat and nearby power lines to be safe.

If your boat contacts a power line, never jump out of the boat into the water — the water could be energized. Stay in the boat and avoid touching anything metal until help arrives or until your boat is no longer in contact with the line. Also check for the location of power lines before fishing. Make sure you are casting away from the power lines to avoid contact.

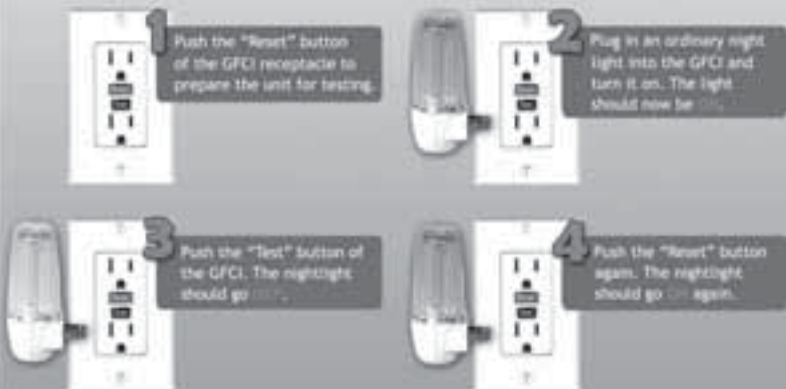


For more summer safety information visit www.safeelectricity.org.

How to test electrical outlets

Since the 1970s ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) have saved thousands of lives, helping cut the number of home electrocutions in half. The safety devices prevent deadly shock by quickly shutting off power to the circuit if the electricity flowing into the circuit differs from the amount returning. The safety devices should be used in any indoor or outdoor area where water may come into contact with electrical products.

GFCIs should be tested once a month to make sure they're working properly. To test a device, follow these four steps:



Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International



Connections Card is now on your iPhone

Forget your Co-op Connections Card but you want the prescription drug discount? No problem: The free Co-op Connections app is now available for the iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch. Once downloaded, the program prompts you to select your co-op, a choice that becomes locked in place.

The opening screen shows the card front with the option of going to the co-op's own Co-op Connections website. If you select the card, the back of the card will display, showcasing the pharmacy discount information. That can be presented to a pharmacist who can use the information for the discount if you don't have your card.

The app also features an alphabetized list of the more than 100 national deals the card currently offers. In phase two, now under development, the app will include local deals, a search feature and category setup and will be expanded to other platforms.

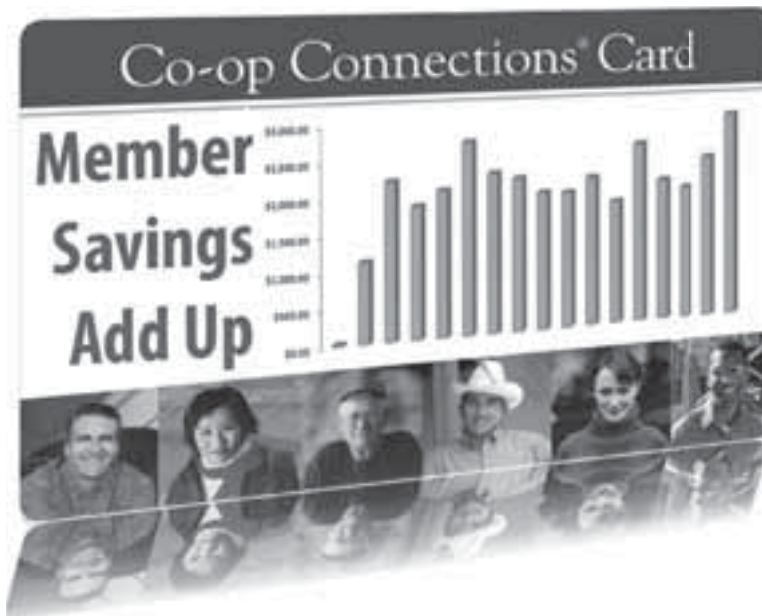
To download the app, go to the iTunes Store and type "Co-op Connections" in the search box.

We're Always Thinking of Ways to Help Our Members Save Energy.

And then we thought, why stop there?

To help our members save on goods and services of all kinds, we started the Co-op Connections program.

The Co-op Connections Card is just one more benefit of being a member of a Touchstone Energy cooperative.



In May, members saved \$2,692.64 on prescriptions alone
Rx Savings Total since October 2008:

\$76,565.70

For more information on the Co-op Connections Card, visit our website at www.jocarroll.com



Jo-Carroll Energy

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections®

Keep your cool if the power's out

High winds and lightning that accompany severe summer storms can be the cause of many summer power outages.

If your power goes out, make sure to call Jo-Carroll Energy at 800-927-5254 to report the outage as soon as possible.

In the immediate aftermath of a storm, you should assume that any dangling wires you encounter are electrical and treat all downed or hanging lines as if they are energized. Stay clear of downed power lines at all times — even when cleaning up after the storm. If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your

vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel and Jo-Carroll Energy.

If power to your home is out for a prolonged period, dress in loose, lightweight clothing and stay on the coolest, lowest level of your home. Use natural ventilation to cool homes, drink plenty of water and avoid heavy meals and caffeinated or alcoholic drinks. Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. A freezer that is half full or full can keep foods frozen from 24 to 48 hours. Foods should stay safe in an unopened refrigerator for up to four hours. If an outage lasts longer than four hours, remove and pack meat,

milk and other dairy products in a cooler with ice.

If you use a standby generator, make sure a transfer switch is used or connect appliances directly to the generator output through an isolated circuit before you operate it. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the power lines, what's known as "back feed." Back feed creates danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power.

For more information on how your power is restored and safety tips, visit our website at www.jocarroll.com. **Vivian Eaton**

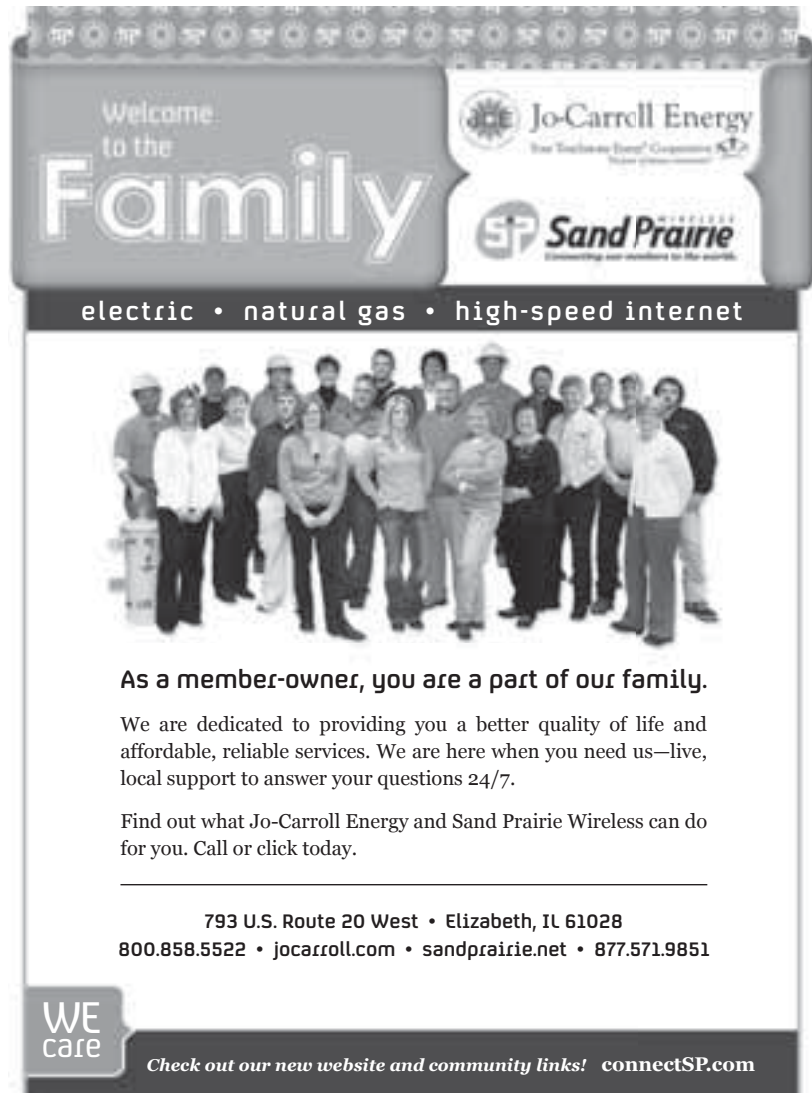
We want to hear from you!

Every other year our Statewide Association, the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, conducts an anonymous statewide survey via mail to help us better understand our members and their needs. The survey will be conducted in 2011 and include questions focusing on your satisfaction with our service, your views on energy efficiency and renewable energy, how you use electricity and technology and about you and your family.

The survey responses will be returned to an impartial third party who will only provide the cooperative and association with the tabulated results, not your identity. For your convenience, an online response option has been added this year.

If you receive a questionnaire, please complete and return it by the requested deadline. By participating, you'll be eligible to win one of five \$100 electric bill credits.

The target date for mailing questionnaires is mid-August. Please contact us if you receive a questionnaire and have questions.



Welcome to the **Family**

Jo-Carroll Energy
The Traditional Energy Cooperative

Sand Prairie
Powering our members for the world

electric • natural gas • high-speed internet

As a member-owner, you are a part of our family.

We are dedicated to providing you a better quality of life and affordable, reliable services. We are here when you need us—live, local support to answer your questions 24/7.

Find out what Jo-Carroll Energy and Sand Prairie Wireless can do for you. Call or click today.

793 U.S. Route 20 West • Elizabeth, IL 61028
800.858.5522 • jocarroll.com • sandprairie.net • 877.571.9851

WE care

Check out our new website and community links! connectSP.com