

Who will map your future?

You can find out on the Youth to Washington trip

OK. So you aren't really into politics. As a junior or senior in high school, you're thinking about college and where you're going to come up with more than \$100,000 to pay for higher education. You're also trying to decide what you want to work at the rest of your life to make that college experience pay off.

Oddly enough, the very people who may have answers to those questions are wearing the title of state legislator or seated in chambers of the U.S. Congress in Washington D.C.

Before you know it, you will be voting in your first election and the weight of the country's decisions will partially belong to you. Will you support a Congressman who wants to pass Cap & Trade? Will you be in favor of farm subsidies? As you approach what was once "draft-age," do you think we should send more troops to Iraq and Afghanistan or should the military be strengthening our borders? Oh, and when you get the opportunity to meet your Congressman, in addition to these questions will you ask: What has Congress done to make higher education more affordable and will I be able to find a job when I graduate?

Electric and telephone cooperatives in more than 40 states believe that young people deserve a first-class opportunity to educate themselves in the government process. Each year, the cooperatives across the nation sponsor more than 1,500 high school students to make the trek to Washington to get that personal initiation, and they have a lot of fun in the process.

It all begins in Springfield on April



21, 2010 during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperative Youth Day where nearly 300 students will visit the State Capitol and spend much of the morning meeting with legislators. You will tour the Supreme Court and spend the afternoon touring local sites.

During this day trip, staff from McDonough Power will conduct interviews with participating students to determine those who win the trip to Washington D.C. To be considered for this trip, see your guidance counselor for details as participation rules vary from co-op to co-op. **6327MCE13-702B**

This year marks the 51st trip to the nation's capital and promises to be as exciting as ever. Students learn the principles required to keep cooperative members working together for the cooperative's success by establishing their

own "chip and pop" cooperative while on the bus trip. **8412D9-656A**

While in Washington during the week of June 11-18, in addition to meeting with Congressman from Illinois, students are treated to tours of historic sites, given the opportunity to make life-long friends and receive information to help determine career paths.

Hopefully, at the conclusion of the tour, you will understand the only crystal ball in Washington is the one you help develop through your participation in government and public service. The future of the country depends on the youth of today getting involved.

To learn about this opportunity, contact Kelly Hamm at McDonough Power Cooperative or visit the website at www.aiec.coop for additional details.



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Co-op Connections Featured Business Cedar Creek Candles

By Abby Ala, Intern

As soon as I walked in the door of Cedar Creek Candles, I was taken aback by smells of coconut cream pie, autumn leaves, and hints of banana nut bread. I was in candle heaven! Gretchen Pearman started making candles as a hobby in 1999. She liked doing it so much that she started selling the homemade candles at Bev's Flowers in Monmouth in 2001. Her candles became so popular; she decided to open up her own store, Cedar Creek Candles, in 2005.

Before Cedar Creek Candles, Gretchen worked as a nurse for 28 years at Monmouth Hospital. Although Gretchen Pearman cherished being a nurse, she loves the fact that she gets to enjoy a hobby and make a living simultaneously. Not only does this shop offer homemade candles, but it also features home décor; perfect gifts for friends and family. Gretchen loves to decorate and participate in craft shows, so this business venture makes perfect sense for Gretchen. 4322B1-550C

Cedar Creek Candles has a certain scent for everyone. Gretchen works relentlessly to produce over 100 scents! The scents aren't the only reason to purchase a candle though. The candles she makes are also a great quality product; they are guaranteed to last for quite some time. The most popular scent at Cedar Creek Candles is Indian Summer, however, Gretchen's favorite scent is

Spice Cranberry.

Gretchen has lived in the Monmouth area all of her life. She married Michael Pearman 27 years ago and they have two sons. Michael helps out with Cedar Creek Candles, but primarily works at Workforce Investments. Her oldest son is 26 and works in the Electronics Department at ShopKo in Monmouth. Her youngest son is 23 and teaches English in Taipei, Taiwan.



Cedar Creek Candles joined our Co-op Connection program in June of 2009. They are currently offering 10 percent off any purchase. This offer is not valid with any other offer. You can find these Co-op Connection specials at 108 S. 1st Street in Monmouth. Remember, you must bring your Co-op Connections card or key fob to receive these deals. They are open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Saturday.

Map Location Game

Every month we will have four map location numbers hidden throughout The Wire. If you find your map location number, call our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.

Retirements

In 2010 McDonough Power Cooperative will see two incredibly valuable employees set off for retirement.

Lynn Purdy will retire the first part of January 2010. He has been serving the cooperative for the past nine years in the position of Utility Maintenance. Lynn's cheerful demeanor and willingness to do whatever it takes is invaluable. 532RM68-900A

Cynthia Rigg plans to retire mid-February 2010. She has been with the co-op for the past 20 years serving an exceptionally important role as the Billing Clerk. Her dedication to the co-op



Lynn Purdy



Cynthia Rigg

and fulfilling the needs of the membership is priceless.

If you see Lynn or Cynthia in the office or out and about please help us wish them well in their future endeavors. They both have contributed to

the success of the cooperative and will always be a part of the co-op family. We will miss them greatly but at the same time are excited for their achievements and the new opportunities they will be afforded with their additional time.



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Report Elder Abuse

Were you the victim of a home repair scam?

Don't let it happen again!

- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Get estimates before doing home renovations.
- Do not pay for work in advance.
- Never do business without checking references.
- Don't be afraid to call the police and have them check out the credentials of someone who is working in your area.

Were you the victim of a telemarketing scam?

Don't let it happen again!

- Don't pay for any prize or send money to improve your chances of winning. It's illegal to ask you to pay to enter a contest.
- Don't be bullied into buying something "right now." If the caller persists, end the call.
- Don't give your credit card number to anyone over the phone unless you made the call.
- Don't give any caller your bank account number.

If you or someone you know has been the victim of a scam, Break the Silence. Call the Department on Aging to talk confidentially with someone who will help you to alleviate the situation.

Illinois Department on Aging

Elder Abuse Hotline:

1-866-800-1409 (Voice) • 1-888-206-1327 (TTY)