

Menard Electric Cooperative's

Connect to MEC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



★ 74th Annual Meeting ★

Saturday, June 4

PORTA High School, Petersburg

Keep an eye out for your Annual Meeting Official Notice booklet to arrive in the mail later this month for more details.

\$15 and prizes too!

Receive a \$15 bill credit just for registering. Prizes awarded at 7:15 p.m., including the Grand Prize: \$300 toward an Energy Star appliance.

Balloon Artist

The Unique Twist will provide unique balloon creations for kids of all ages. Their slogan: "Balloon animals are not just dogs anymore!"

Entertainment by the Menard County Singers

Dinner

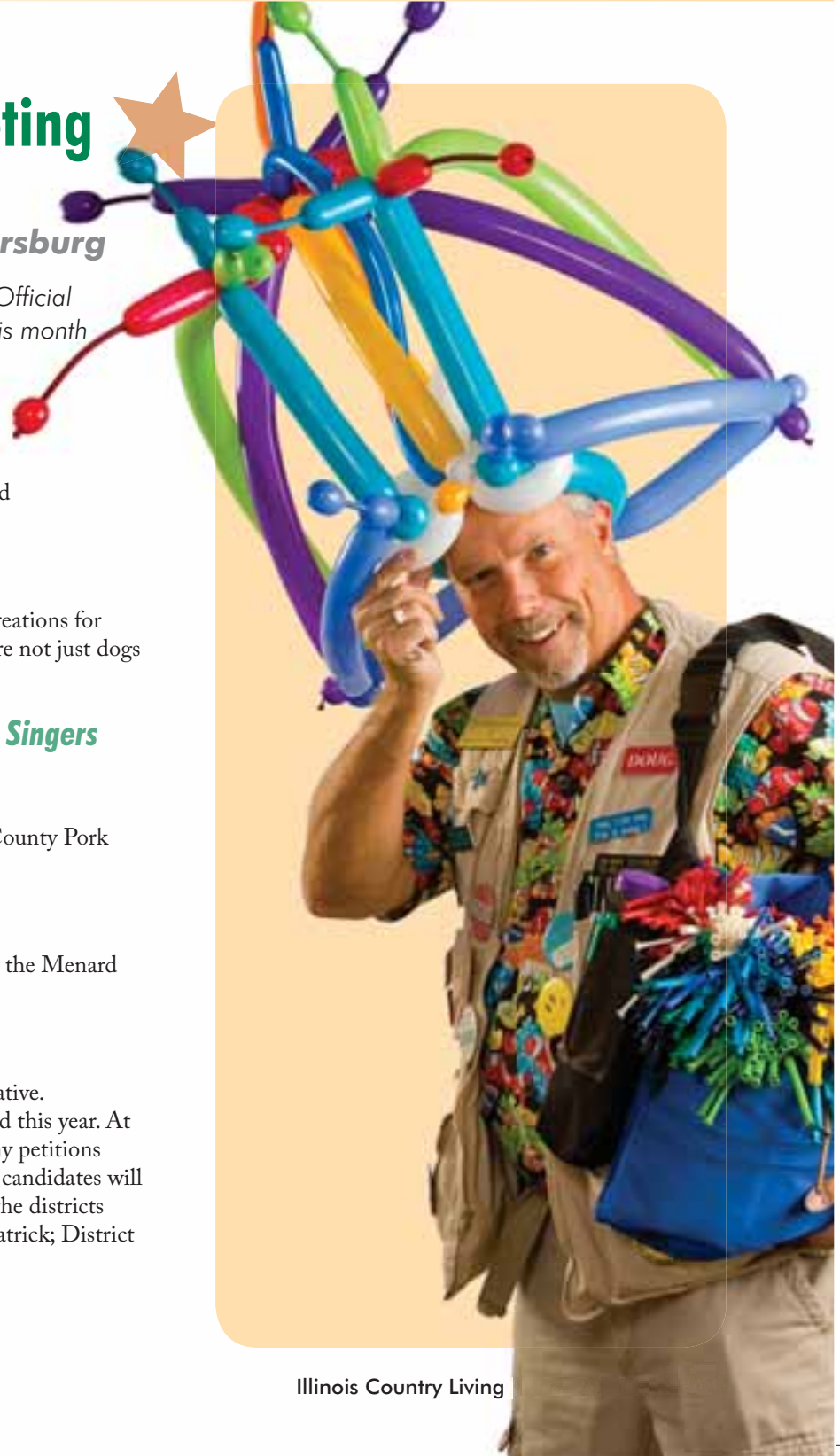
Free pork chop dinner prepared by the Mason County Pork Producers.

Health Screenings

Free blood pressure and glucose screenings from the Menard County Health Department.

The Business Meeting

A 15-minute video presentation on your cooperative. Directors from Districts 3, 7 and 8 will be elected this year. At the time of this printing we have not received any petitions from members wishing to run for the board. All candidates will be profiled in the official notice. Incumbents in the districts are District 3-Michael Carls; District 7-Mike Patrick; District 8-Warren Goetsch.



Illinois Country Living

Great time for budget billing

Don't let your monthly bill bust your budget, sign up for our budget billing program and never again be surprised by higher bills during heavy usage periods.

How it works

We'll calculate a monthly budget amount by estimating the average kilowatt-hours used in the previous 12 months. For new members, we'll use the best available data we have.

For 11 months, you'll be billed the same amount each month. Then, in the 12th month, you'll receive a bill containing either a credit (if you used less kilowatt-hours than expected during the previous 11 months) or an amount due (if you used more kilowatt-hours).

The next budget billing cycle begins with our July 2011 billing and ends with our May 2012 billing. The June 2012 bill will contain the credit or amount due. Call the office for more information or to sign up.



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Petersburg, IL 62675

1-800-872-1203
217-632-7746
www.menard.com

Know how to survive auto accidents involving power lines

Instincts tell us to flee danger. Unfortunately, in vehicle accidents that bring down power lines, these natural inclinations can lead to tragic results.

If your car hits a power pole, or otherwise brings a power line down, stay in your vehicle and wait until Menard Electric or another local electric

utility has arrived on the scene and ensured that lines have been de-energized. If you come upon or witness an accident involving toppled power poles and lines, don't leave your vehicle to approach the scene.

In the vast majority of incidents, the safest place to remain is inside the car. Only in the rare instance of fire should people exit a vehicle. Then, they must know how to do so *safely*, jumping free and clear, landing with feet together, and hopping away. It's difficult to get out without creating a path for current to flow, which is why



Photo courtesy of Shelby Electric

one should get out only if forced to.

"When people are involved in a car accident, electricity is usually the last thing on anyone's mind," Safe Electricity Executive Director Molly Hall notes. "We're often more concerned about whether anyone was injured, or how badly the vehicle is damaged. We forget that by exiting the vehicle, we're risking bodily exposure to thousands of volts of electricity from downed power lines."

To learn more, watch a video on www.SafeElectricity.org.

Make One Change

We encourage you to make one small, no-cost change each month to save energy. To find out how all the little changes add up visit www.togetherwesave.coop.



Keep cool for less

On milder days, fans can save as much as 60 percent on electric bills. Fans cool people, not rooms, so turn them off when you leave.

Monthly Safety Tip

Keep kids safe

The kids will be out of school soon so it's a good time to review electrical hazards in the areas they play in. Teach them to stay out of substation fences, off of pad mounted transformers (those large green boxes), away from power poles and out of trees near power lines.



Automatic Payment: One less thing to worry about!

You can have the net amount of your bill automatically deducted from your checking or savings account on the 17th of each month. Just get us this form by the 20th of the month prior to when you wish payments to begin.

Mail with a voided check to Menard Electric Cooperative, PO Box 200, Petersburg, IL 62675.

Name: _____ SS No. _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Map Location No. _____

Bank Name: _____ Bank Account No. _____

Checking acct. Savings acct.

I, _____, authorize Menard Electric Cooperative (MEC) to draw monthly bank drafts through the automatic plan (ACH) on the account shown above for the payment of my electric bill in full and any other services I authorize. I understand that I may discontinue my participation at any time by notifying MEC in writing. Both Menard Electric Cooperative and the bank may terminate this agreement with 10 days written notice. I understand that MEC reserves the right to limit participation in this program to customers whose accounts are in good standing. I understand the amount of my bill each month will be drafted on the 17th or next business day after. I understand that if funds are not available in my account for the draft to clear, there will be a charge posted to my MEC account, for NSF, and I will still be required to make full payment before the due date of the bill.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Board Meeting Report

For full minutes please visit our website at www.menard.com or contact our office.

Present were Manager Lynn Frasco, Attorney Charles Smith and Directors Jerry Brooks, Michael Carls, Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Gary Martin, Donald McMillan, Michael Patrick, Roy Seaney and Steven Worner.

Reviewed a summary of the new irrigation systems for 2011.

HomE Update: To date there are 98 member audits completed. Rebates in process total \$52,254.

Discussed February 1-2 winter

storm. MEC provided crews to assist EnerStar Electric Cooperative with its repairs of storm damage.

Frasco reviewed Capital Credit Estate Refunds Report.

Frasco discussed RUS 2009 Borrower's Statistical Profile.

Director Carls reported on Prairie Power, Inc. and the Prairie Power Annual Meeting.

Director Brooks reported on plans for 2011 Menard Electric Annual Meeting.

Year to date margins were (\$7,052) compared to \$106,773 a year earlier. Equity as of the end of January was 33.06 percent and the number of members served was 10,501 compared to 10,491 a year ago.

Net Utility Plant at the end of January was \$35,560,334 compared to \$35,595,897 last year. The cooperative continues to meet the requirements of the RUS, FFB and NRUCFC.

Co-op Connections Card updates

New App

You can now download a free Co-op Connections App for iPhone, iPad or iPod Touch through iTunes. The App lets you have all the pharmacy discount information on your phone. It also helps you find the more than 100 national discounts currently offered. Soon, local deals will be accessible as well and the app will be expanded to other platforms such as Droid.

Pet Assure

A new program offers pet owners savings up to 25 percent off veterinarian services and more for a discounted monthly rate. See www.connections.coop and click on Pet Assure for more information and a list of providers.



Surge Protection

Did you know we offer surge protection for your home? We offer both whole house surge protection at the meter as well as point of use surge protectors. You can rest easy knowing your appliances and valuable electronics are safe. Visit our web site at www.menard.com for more information or call the office.