



Waterloo, Illinois • 618.939.7171 • 800.757.7433

ATTENTION!! 75th Anniversary Celebration to be held at the cooperative headquarters

The location of our 75th Anniversary Celebration has been changed from the Monroe County Fairgrounds to the Monroe County Electric Cooperative office at 6132 State Route 3, Waterloo.

The celebration will be held on Saturday, June 8th. This event will run from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

This event will mark the 75th year the cooperative has been in business.

Refreshments available will include bratwurst sandwiches, chips, cookies and soda drinks/bottled water. We also plan to have ice cream treats.

We will have activities for the younger crowd which will include:

- Tethered rides in the Touchstone Energy hot air balloon (weather/wind permitting)
- Bucket truck rides
- Moonwalker bounce houses
- Face painting
- Way cool balloons for the kids

We're looking for antiques!

We invite anyone who has old antique items that were used in the home or on the farm, prior to electricity being available, to bring them that day. These items will be put on display for members to look at. Please contact our office at 939-7171, extension 115 if you are interested.

We will also have a special 75th Anniversary attendance gift for each membership that registers.

So come out for some fun, good food and the chance to win some great prizes!



***Saturday, June 8th
10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.***

Registered members in attendance will be entered for Grand prize drawings!



Students meet with Rep. Costello and Sen. Luechtefeld at Youth Day

More than 200 students from downstate Illinois traveled to Springfield on Wednesday, April 17, for the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day.

With rural areas losing population, fewer legislators are serving downstate. The need for citizens to take active roles in making sure their legislators are aware of rural issues is of critical importance.

"Elected officials enjoy the opportunity to meet with students and learn first-hand their concerns. Many issues debated in the General Assembly personally affect their lives," said Duane Noland, President and

CEO of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC).

Rep. Jerry Costello II met with students representing Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc. The students had an opportunity to view state government in action and question their legislators on key issues. While in Springfield, the students also visited the Illinois Supreme Court, Lincoln's Tomb, the War Memorials, the Old State Capitol and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.

Pictured front row l-r are: Kaycee Warner, Aaron Puntriano, Brittany Kraughn, Kennedy Moehrs, Alyssa

Pellmann, Bailey Martin-Giacalone, Emily Killebrew and Shirley Reinhold, Office Clerk at Monroe County Electric. Back row: Allan Masterson, Monroe County Electric Director of Member Services; Mike Niederbrach, Gabrielle Schmitz, Gregory Erwin, Rep. Jerry Costello II, Ethan May, Ethan DuClos, Austin Gregson, Emma Eustis and Alexandra Chism.

The day was sponsored by the AIEC and is designed to introduce young rural leaders to state government. There were 24 co-ops from across the state represented at the event.

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc.

6132 State Rt. 3, P.O. Box 128, Waterloo, Illinois 62298 • 618-939-7171
Office hours: Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. • 800-757-7433

Around-the-clock appliances

By Magen Howard

In 2013, new appliances don't just cook your food and keep it cold, wash your clothes and dishes, or offer a few hours of entertainment. These machines boast myriad functions that make our lives easier—but in doing so also consume more energy.

While appliances have become more energy efficient as technology has evolved and federal standards tightened, few ever truly shut down anymore. And as Americans add more and more electronic devices to their households—25 on average, according to the Consumer Electronics Association—much more energy is consumed.

Take a phone charger as an example. Leaving it plugged in without a phone attached doesn't mean it's not drawing power—in fact, it uses 0.26 watts of electricity even when a phone isn't connected, and 2.24 watts when the handset is charging.

Of course, that 0.26 watts by itself might not be a big issue. But if most of your electronic devices are doing that, it can add up to as much as 10 percent of your bill, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

"Take a look around your house—how many cords are

plugged in? Of those, how many are actually attached to a device? You might be surprised at how much electricity your family consumes, even when you don't realize it," says Allan Masterson, Director of Member Services.

Cable boxes are a big culprit of 24/7 energy use. Leaving your cable box plugged in for a year and never turning it off adds, on average, \$17.83 to your electric bill. Toss in a DVR function and that total jumps to \$43.46, DOE reports.

And electronics aren't the only problem. Basic "white goods" appliances like clothes washers and dryers, refrigerators, and dishwashers are so savvy that you can set them to come on late at night, when the wholesale power your co-op must buy costs less—helping your co-op keep power affordable for you and your neighbors. Here again, the bigger you go with a new appliance, the more energy it will use.

Electric bills don't have to be held hostage by 24-hour-a-day energy use. For starters, use a power strip to turn several electronics on or off at once. For a bigger investment, look into "smart" power strips. They

allow you to cut power to certain appliances—say, your TV—while letting power flow to your cable box because it takes time to reboot after being unplugged.

If you're in the market for a new appliance, look for an ENERGY STAR model. It generally consumes less power all around and uses less standby energy.

"But remember that you actually have to use those energy-efficient settings on your appliances to see savings on your electric bill," Masterson explains.

For more information on energy-efficient living, visit www.mcec.org or call 939-7171 or 1-800-757-7433.

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, Consumer Electronics Association

Magen Howard writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service organization for the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Youth to Washington Winners

Emma Eustis of Waterloo, Emily Killebrew of Freeburg and Ethan May of Valmeyer, were selected as the three winners of the Youth to Washington program sponsored by your electric cooperative and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in Springfield. The three students attended Youth Day in Springfield along with the other twelve participating students. Their winning applications were selected from a group of fourteen.

Emma will be a senior at Waterloo High School in the fall and is the daughter of David and Tamara Eustis of Waterloo.

Emily will be a senior at Freeburg High School in the fall and is the daughter of Michelle Killebrew of Smithton.

Ethan will be a senior at Valmeyer High School in the fall and is the son of Allen & Sharon May of Valmeyer.

All three students are very active

with school organizations as well as extracurricular activities.

The Youth to Washington trip is scheduled for June 14 – 21 and is an all-expense paid tour of Washington, D.C. This tour has been a nationwide tradition of the electric cooperatives since 1957.

We congratulate all three winners!

Protect yourself against CO poisoning

Protect yourself and your family against CO poisoning at work and at home. Carbon monoxide is colorless, odorless, tasteless, and potentially deadly. And it's the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in the United States.

Carbon monoxide, or CO, prevents oxygen from being absorbed into the bloodstream. Without oxygen, of course, the body stops functioning properly, causing damage to tissues and the brain that can lead to disability and death. CO is produced by many common household and workplace appliances: gas water

heaters, kerosene space heaters, gasoline and diesel power generators, and others; cigarette smoke, spray paint, and paint removers are also possible sources.

Because you can't see it or smell it, be on the lookout for these symptoms:

- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea/vomiting
- Mental confusion
- Impairment of vision and/or hearing
- Loss of consciousness
- Feeling chilled

Your first and best line of defense is a reliable CO detector. Check and change its batteries regularly, or install detectors that plug into a standard AC outlet. In addition, have your heating/air conditioning appliances serviced yearly to make sure they're not leaking CO into your home or office. Avoid using any kind of fuel-burning appliance indoors.

Victims of CO exposure should seek medical attention immediately.



Want to beat the heat? Run appliances like dishwashers and dryers late in the evening to keep the heat from affecting your comfort. Use cold water to wash clothes, and remember to unplug electric chargers, televisions, and any appliances when you are not using them. Learn more ways to save at TogetherWeSave.com.

Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

MCEC Line Outages - April 2013

Date	# Out	Duration	Cause	Substation
04/05/13	10	0:42	CUT DOWN WIRES FOR F.D.	Waterloo
04/10/13	36	2:10	TREE FELL ON LINE	East Carondelet
04/10/13	81	2:08	REGULATOR BURNT UP.	Fults
04/11/13	4	2:41	BAD TRANSFORMER	N. Waterloo
04/16/13	2	1:16	LIGHTNING	East Carondelet
04/16/13	101	0:16	LIGHTNING	N. Waterloo
04/18/13	48	2:39	TREE ON LINE	Waterloo
04/18/13	33	2:28	TREE THROUGH LINE	Fountain
04/23/13	47	1:30	STICK ON TRANSFORMER	New Athens
04/23/13	6	0:55	LIGHTNING/BLOWN FUSE	Millstadt
04/28/13	207	4:05	BAD INSULATOR	Millstadt
04/28/13	151	0:07	BAD INSULATOR	Millstadt
04/30/13	73	1:14	TREE LIMB	East Carondelet