

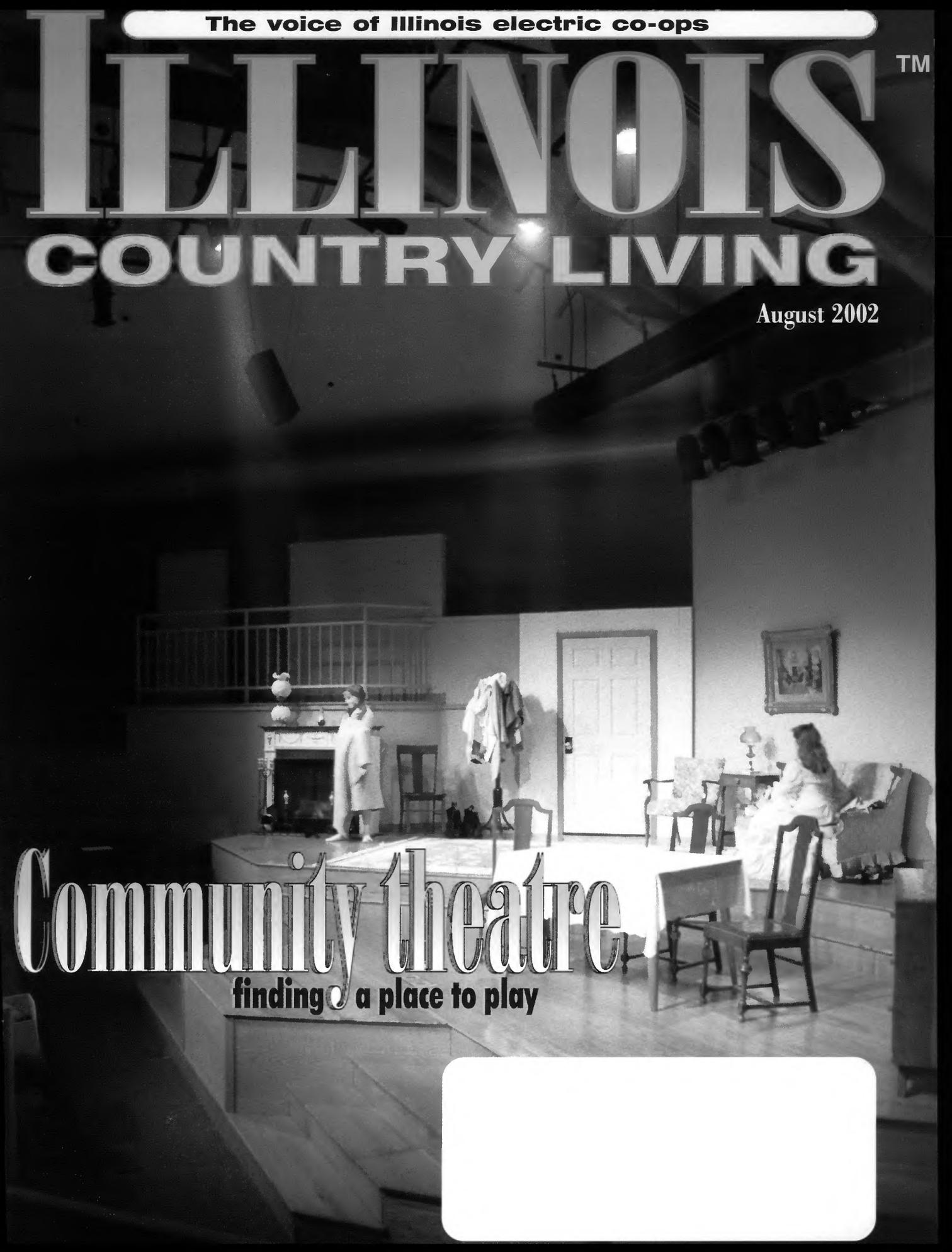
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# ILLINOIS

## COUNTRY LIVING

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August 2002



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finding a place to play



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# COVER STORY



**Community theatre ..... 10**  
*An array of unique theatrical groups nestled away in small towns across Illinois, bring family, friends and neighbors together to perform and enjoy. Cover: Talor Lutz, Virden and Pat Young, Petersburg work on a scene from "Healin' Home" at New Salem's Theatre.*

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# ILLINOIS COUNTRY LIVING™

August 2002 ..... Volume 60 ..... Number 4

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Dexter Edmison

# Commitment to serve is the co-op difference

As my tenure comes to a close as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) I have to reflect on what I have learned from my experiences as a director. This includes serving as director on the boards of the AIEC, Tri-County Electric Cooperative and Southern Illinois Power Cooperative.

First, let me give you some background. I was approached about serving as director at my local distribution cooperative, Tri-County Electric, in 1992. My local director, a neighbor and friend, had passed away unexpectedly. The remainder of his term needed to be filled. I admit that I was very naive about cooperatives and had some misconceptions about what the electric cooperative movement was all about. Frankly, my knowledge about cooperatives was limited. My previous involvement was attending a few 4-H electric schools and a few annual meetings as a youngster. Probably like some of you, I thought the director positions entailed a lot of fun travel - possibly without much merit.

That evening, my wife Judy and I discussed the position and my concerns. Due to our misconceptions of what being a cooperative director would be like, we were unsure if I should be personally involved. Later in the week I had somewhat the same discussion with my father. Although he was a good listener, he didn't give his opinion as to what I should do. Ultimately, the final decision was mine to make. After much consideration, I decided that I would accept the offer in order to be able to make what I thought at the time to

be some necessary changes.

Now, let me share my experience. What a rude awakening I experienced when I became a director! I found that, yes; directors do take a few trips. I must add, however, that I cannot say I have seen the program abused. These trips have in actuality turned out to be highly beneficial: engaging directors in educational activities to make them better board members and therefore more competent in serving members, and more informed by keeping directors abreast of events impacting the membership both politically and economically. Being involved in the issues facing electric cooperatives today is very challenging. Deregulation and power supply reliability are incredibly difficult and complicated issues. However, I'm glad that local members, the men and women who serve, will decide these issues on cooperative boards with integrity and genuine concern for their local community.

While serving on these boards I have been privileged to become acquainted with many people from across the state and now count them as friends. I have found a common thread of commitment to the service of the rural development needs of the areas served and have seen a genuine desire that members be treated fairly in the legislative and competitive arenas. I feel fortunate to have had these experiences, and find they have made me a most ardent supporter of what the electric cooperative movement is all about. The movement today is not much different than it was some 60

plus years ago when the REA (now RUS) saw that the investor-owned utility companies did not want to serve rural areas. The truth of the matter is that today they still don't want to serve the rural areas unless it is to "cherry pick" some profitable electric load. Finally, you the cooperative members are being served by the most dedicated directors and employees, and without the continued work of these dedicated individuals many of us would find ourselves literally "in the dark." Together, they strive to give us quality of life in the rural areas that investor-owned utilities saw no profit in serving. Cooperatives remain in touch with local issues and objectives in ways large corporations can't match.

They are also able to make certain your interests are protected at the local, state and national levels. Through the network of cooperative organizations, members have real power - even at the national level.

Mine has truly been a wonderful awakening, and I encourage you to become involved in your local electric cooperative. Go to the annual meeting. Read the local newsletter. Talk to your board members. As an owner, you must stay informed.

*Dexter Edmison is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. He has served on the Board of Directors of Tri-County Electric Cooperative since 1992.*

The opinions and views of guest commentators are their own and may not represent those of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives or the electric co-ops of Illinois.





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## Lock systems on Illinois rivers need updating

The Illinois Corn Growers Association (ICGA) submitted comments to the Army Corps of Engineers earlier this summer stating its belief that the 70 year-old lock system on the Illinois River and Mississippi River must be updated.

"Agriculture continues to be the state's largest industry and corn and soybeans are the foundation of agricultural commerce, so the ability to export and compete in world markets is fundamental to all Illinois citizens," said ICGA President Garry Niemeyer, in comments regarding the Army Corps of Engineer's recently released Draft Interim Report on River Navigation.

ICGA appreciates and advocates the need for a balanced approach to managing our river system and meeting the needs of businesses, recreational users, and environmental constituencies, said Niemeyer.

The Illinois River is critical to the overall movement of grain in the Midwest. When the Mississippi River closes in the winter, all of the traffic shifts to the Illinois within the Rock Island Army Corp of Engineers District. The data indicates that the actual tonnage on this critical portion of the Illinois River actually moves more tonnage during the winter months than the Mississippi River portion of the Rock Island District.

Half the total tonnage passing St. Louis comes off the Illinois River because of increased traffic demand in the winter.

"Exporting is an on-demand enterprise, so it's not the average delay but the actual delay at the time the lock is needed that is relevant. A three-hour locking procedure during peak export season translates into poor customer service and endangers future business. The increased locking cost is also a burden to farmers who ultimately pay increased shipping costs," Niemeyer said.

Source: [www.ilcorn.org](http://www.ilcorn.org)

## Co-ops harness the power of distributed generators

A collection of new business templates, developed by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), will help local electric co-ops harness the power of distributed generation.

Distributed generation (DG) refers to small-scale electricity generators deployed at or near the point of consumption — power without wires. The tool kit will help utilities put in place policies for the interconnection of DG units, assuring the safe and reliable operation of the distribution system. "The electric utility industry must establish comprehensive and flexible interconnection criteria," says Joy Morrison, NRECA senior Regulatory Counsel.

The tool kit is a recognition by NRECA, National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corp. and Energy Co-Opportunity, who jointly funded the effort, that the DG market will continue to expand and that significant challenges must be met before its potential can be fully realized. Resource Dynamics Corporation predicts the DG market will double by 2010.

## Mosquitoes and the West Nile virus

The West Nile virus was first identified in Illinois in 2001. It is a virus affecting the central nervous system. Mosquitoes get the virus from infected wild birds, dead crows, blue jays and raptors. Mosquitoes can transfer the virus to humans and other animals. No human cases of infection have been reported in Illinois. Birds from Cook, Crawford, DuPage, Kane, Lake McHenry and Will counties tested positive in 2001. Cook and Kane Counties also each reported one horse infection case. In 2002, nine bird cases have been reported in the counties of Clark, Cook, Edgar and Kane.

The risk of getting the virus is very small. Even in areas where mosquitoes carry the virus, very few (usually less than one out of 500) are infected. Illnesses related to mosquito bites are rare, but you should see a doctor if you develop high fever, confusion, muscle weakness or severe headaches five-15 days after a bite. Patients with mild symptoms will likely recover completely without medication. Patients above the age of 50 are more at risk for serious infection.

The best way to prevent West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne illnesses is to prevent mosquito bites and reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home. Dr. John Lumpkin, State Public Health Director, suggests the following precautions:

- When outdoors between dusk and dawn, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt. Loose-fitting, light colored clothing is best.
- Use mosquito repellent containing 25 percent to 35 percent DEET when it is necessary to be outdoors, applied sparingly to exposed skin or clothing, as indicated on repellent label. Consult a physician before using repellents on young children.
- Check for and repair any tears in residential screens, including porches and patios.
- Eliminate stagnant water in birdbaths, ponds, flower pots, wading pools, old tires and any other receptacles in which mosquitoes might breed.

Keep in mind that mosquitoes that breed as a result of flooding are not usually disease carriers, so the recent flooding in Illinois should not affect the spread of the virus.

West Nile virus can cause a serious disease that includes inflammation of the brain (encephalitis), muscle weakness, high fever, convulsions, paralysis, coma or death. In the past three years, 149 human cases of West Nile encephalitis have been reported in the United States, mostly in the New York area, including 18 deaths.



## New Web site offers farm bill information

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has launched a Web site aimed at helping farmers and the public learn the latest information on the new farm bill. The site is at [www.usda.gov/farmbill](http://www.usda.gov/farmbill). It includes farm program details, questions and answers, program applications and sign-up forms as well as material from USDA agencies on farm bill implementation. It also will have a comparison of 1996 and 2002 farm bill provisions, fact sheets that cover changes in conservation programs, and instructions on how to calculate new yields.

## Rural schools should matter in Illinois

Illinois' rural teachers earn nearly \$10,500 less than teachers in the rest of the state, the largest gap in the nation. There are more than 1 million people living in rural Illinois, and the state ranks among the top ten states in the percentage of students attending small rural schools, one-fourth of which suffer declining enrollment. The sheer number of rural people makes it important for Illinois to address rural education policy, while the conditions in rural schools and communities make it critical for the state to do so.

Fully one-quarter of America's school-age children attend public schools in rural areas or small towns. But if you listen to the education policy debate, chances are you will not hear much about them. In most of the 50 states, it is the education of urban children that gets nearly all of the attention. This report aims to adjust that picture by bringing rural schools and communities into focus. Rural kids, their schools, and their communities do matter. And in many states, action on behalf of rural schools needs to be an urgent priority.

One-fourth of U.S. schoolchildren go to schools in rural areas or small towns with a population of less than 25,000 people. Fourteen percent go to school in even smaller places with fewer than 2,500 people. But these children, and the communities and schools they live and study in, are largely unnoticed in the national debate over the direction of American education. While policymakers, advisors and scholars debate — and they should — the wisdom of alternative policies for urban schools, and for special education students or second language learners, or for poor and minority students, we rarely read serious analysis of the particular policy issues faced by students who live in rural areas.

This void is not a matter of indifference as much as it is a matter of constituency. Rural people are so widely dispersed that they are politically invisible. They are a demographic and political majority in only five states (Maine, Mississippi, South Dakota, Vermont and West Virginia) and a handful of congressional districts.

Schools throughout rural America tend to be numerous and small, both by necessity and by community preference. They tend to be close to the communities they serve. They are places where students, teachers, parents and administrators know each other. They are different from many schools in larger places.

Recruitment and retention of rural teachers, principals and administrators is strained by professional isolation and chronically lower salaries than larger schools in larger places.

Long bus rides eat away at children's time for study, play and family, while high transportation costs whittle away at funds for instruction.

Distance and a sparse population make these schools last to be connected to the digital world that might help solve the curricular problems associated with distance.

Source: The Rural School and Community Trust, [www.ruraledu.org](http://www.ruraledu.org).

## Co-ops test new generation beta fuel cells

In May, a new generation of beta test fuel cells were installed by electric co-ops across the country, including EnerStar Power Corp in Paris, Illinois. Fuel cells, used by NASA to power the space shuttle, provide electricity with only heat and water as the by products. Fuel cells could be used in the future by homeowners or businesses to provide off the grid power, or clean power for computers that require a perfect sine wave 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"I'm very pleased with the new fuel cell," says Mike Torres, General Manager of Platte-Clay Electric Cooperative in Kearney, Missouri. "It's functioning very efficiently and very reliably. Since we've turned it on, the fuel cell just runs."

In Lindsay, Oklahoma, the heat of summer is already kicking on the air conditioner at the home of Ed Bevers and his family of four. It's an all-electric home that is also now completely fuel cell-powered. Bevers, an employee of the Oklahoma electric co-op, says the unit is "in and running and couldn't be more perfect. We keep adding loads and it keeps working."

Compared to the alpha fuel cell that operated at the co-op headquarters two years ago, Bevers says, "I'm very impressed. H Power has made a quantum leap in the technology." Bevers recalls hovering over the balky alpha unit "tweaking things, watching valves, hitting switches." With the beta fuel cell at his house, he says, "We punched one button, waited until the light turned green and that was all. You can't get any simpler than that."



*Bill Cetti, President/CEO of ECO helped demonstrate the new H Power fuel cell at a national co-op meeting in March.*





*The weakest link in our nation's power supply is its 157,000 miles of transmission lines. Over the last decade there has been virtually no growth in transmission line capacity. Key bottlenecks in the transmission system must be bridged to solve power supply and pricing issues.*

## **New "interstate highway" needed for electricity**

*By Anna Scott*

President Bush has suggested that the lack of new construction for power generators led to California's inability to supply enough electricity to consumers. What many people don't realize is there are also not enough large transmission lines, which transport electric energy between all electric utilities, even in our region of the country.

In an assessment of the Illinois' present power-grid, Richard Mathias, chairman of the Illinois Commerce Commission, found transmission bottlenecks in the state that have the potential to cause blackouts during the summer months when air conditioners are running at high levels. What's more, it seems that no state is safe from this transmission line accessibility problem.

With the onset of deregulation, transmission lines are being asked to transport electricity anywhere in the nation, almost like an electricity interstate highway system or pipeline. But that is not what they were built to do.

The transmission lines were built for local/regional needs. They were improved to allow the transfer of energy between utilities to increase reliability, but not

"ship" vast amounts of power that is expected in a totally deregulated energy market.

According to Richard Myott, planning and environmental department manager for Southern Illinois Power Cooperative, Marion, the most common scenario for widespread blackouts develops when a utility cannot sell or receive energy due to transmission constraints.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association has suggested banding together at local and national levels to build an "interstate highway" to facilitate the flow of electricity across the nation and solve the problem of transmission constraints. The outcome could be the construction of many new transmission structures and their corresponding lines.

Or, maybe not. The creation of such an "electric highway" assumes someone would take the risk of building the necessary lines. With the uncertainty of deregulation and tremendous cost of obtaining permits and building transmission lines, investors are unsure they will receive a return on their contribution to the construction of a national transmission grid. "There is not much incentive to build if you are doing it for

your competitors," says Myott.

Also, according to Bob Harbour, vice president, generation and operations at Continental Cooperative Services, Harrisburg, Pa., "There is no guarantee that the necessary right of way can be obtained within a reasonable period of years for such a line, even with the right of eminent domain, which can be granted by each state." The right of eminent domain gives the government the right to appropriate private property for public use, usually with compensation to the owner.

Without dependable electricity other infrastructures including transportation, telecommunications, oil and gas, and financial systems shut down. The bottom line is, more transmission lines are necessary to maintain the flow of electricity, prevent blackouts and spare transmission-dependant utilities and customers the domino effects of a faulty transmission grid and the high cost of energy bottlenecks. A truly competitive and open market for electricity will not evolve unless new transmission lines, as well as new generating plants, are built. Increasing demand without a plentiful new supply will mean higher prices.



# Adults receiving more support to go back to school

by April Kramer

With work, home life and family to consider, it may seem impossible to think about going back to school. But, according to the National Center for Educational Statistics, 45 percent of adults went back to school in the 1990s and the numbers are steadily increasing.

## Seeking a college degree

Many companies encourage their employees to seek degrees in their professional field. Compensation and rewards for higher education increase performance in employees and the success of companies. Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative (EIEC) is just one co-op that encourages the improvement and development of employees. EIEC offers to reimburse 100 percent tuition to their employees, up to a fixed amount, upon the successful completion of a course. Employees have earned associates degrees, completed MBA programs, as well as individual courses to improve their professional skills.

Marcellus J. Leonard, Ph.D., a professor at the University of Illinois at Springfield, went back to school at the age of 41 to Illinois State University to earn a bachelor's degree followed by a master's and then a doctorate. "I had always wanted to be a writer of poetry and fiction, but I was too busy raising a family," said Professor Leonard. When his three children were essentially adults he took advantage of his desires to succeed in education. "I thought, 'I'm not going to waste this time,'" he said.

If you have considered going back to school to complete or earn a degree, here are some tips to get you started:

- Decide what you want out of your college experience. Talk to school advisors about the steps you can take to complete your goal. Explore different universities/community colleges and pick the one that agrees most with your goals.
- Decide how much time you can devote to your education. Communicate to your family your intentions of going back to school. Explore the options of day, night, weekend and Internet classes.
- Decide on a means of financing. Take advantage of tuition reimbursement opportunities if your company offers them. Apply for financial aid, grants and scholarships. If needed, research loan options.

## Taking courses to enhance your professional knowledge

Maintaining current professional knowledge can lead to advancement in the work place and open doors to

business opportunities. Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative (WWCEC) offers incentives to increasing professional knowledge. In addition to offering group classes in Windows and Microsoft Access through Frontier Community College, Tamara Ruhl, Manager of Administration and Human Resources at WWCEC, said, "On an individual basis, we reimburse employees who take courses through the community college system if the class will enhance skills relative to their job."

Find out if your present company offers tuition reimbursements for enhancing your career skills or if they offer training courses on technology or communication skills. Taking advantage of these classes not only shows the company that you take your job seriously, it also helps you feel confident as you keep up with the demands of your position.

## Taking courses that save time

Living in a rural area and working full time can make going back to school difficult. The Internet can help by solving time and distance obstacles. Most college classes offer a section taught via the Internet.

"This is available at the student's convenience. They can study from anywhere in the world at any time of night or day and so these courses are adaptable," said Professor Leonard, who has taught expository writing, poetry, fiction and drama writing online. Professor Leonard continues to teach online classes and said, "It has been my experience that students respond very well to this form of learning if they are highly motivated

and disciplined." If you are interested in taking Internet courses here are a few hints for success:

- Keep in touch with other students and your instructor through e-mail, or postings if your course offers an interactive Web site.
- Read all instructions carefully from installation of programs to guidelines on assignments.
- Allow yourself time to study and work on assignments.

With the convenience of online courses you can often create your own schedule and allow yourself time with your family between assignments.

For more information on colleges in Illinois, log onto [www.isac1.org/ilcol/ilcol.html](http://www.isac1.org/ilcol/ilcol.html). This Web site contains general college information including the current yearly cost of education for schools along with a program to help you calculate the cost and savings for school as well as loan repayments. It also provides advice on career preparation, school selection and the admission process.





# Community theatre

## finding a place to play



**New Salem's theatre**  
Local actors (L to R): Tolor Lutz, Virden; Molly Mathewson, Athens; Karl Brockemeier, Auburn; Elliot Sill, Springfield; Pat Young, Petersburg; and Linda Schnieder of Springfield practice a dress rehearsal of "Healin' Home," a play written and produced by local playwright Kari Catton Anderson. The story is about the Orphan Train and was shown earlier in May at New Salem's theatre near Petersburg.

By *Gina M. Troppa*

It's opening night. The audience's polite conversation falls to a hush as the lights dim. They wait in quiet anticipation as the actors gather their composure, while going over their lines one

last time back stage. The lights gleam brightly as the curtain opens. Instantly, it all comes together. The sound is immaculate, the actors are right on cue, the stage is incredibly realistic and the costumes are beautiful. This is theatre in Illinois, and you don't have to drive to Chicago to enjoy it.

Whether you're an actor, a volunteer or an avid audience member, theatre in Illinois plays a vital role in the cultural and economic development of your town. From community theatres that are entirely volunteer-driven, to a nationally recognized professional theatre, downstate Illinois has a wide array of unique theatrical groups nestled away in its small towns.

The Alton Little Theater, Inc. thrives in Alton, a town of about 33,000. Dorothy Colonius founded the theatre in the early 1930s. A group of neighbors and friends started practicing in her family barn and would perform wherever they were welcomed. During the past 60 years, the theatre has continued to grow and now performs in a 280-seat auditorium.

Leah Farrar White, Managing Director of the Alton Little Theater, Inc., believes that theatre is something you can do for a lifetime. White says, "I started performing in a local community theatre when I was five and I am still involved. The vast age range allows families to be part of something together. You're doing something you love, as a family. I actually met my husband in community theatre."

However, you don't have to be an actor to be a part of com-



munity theatre. You can build sets, help with costume design and creation, collect props, or read along with actors while they're learning their lines. Theatre really does have something for everyone, and becoming involved is much easier than you may think.

"If you want to act, you must audition, but anyone can volunteer to sell season tickets, work back stage, or be an usher," says White. "Volunteers are so important to us."

The Monroe Actors Stage Company (MASC) located in Waterloo, a town of approximately 6,500, also understands the importance of volunteer help. "This includes marketing, back stage assistance and technical crews, as well as acting," says Mike Hemmer, Treasurer for the MASC. "Our mission is to bring many kinds of theatrical opportunities to the county."

The MASC performs live theatrical productions and even hosts murder-mystery dinner performances. A small group of MASC actors have also performed period-dated roles for a trolley tour of historic homes in near by Columbia. Getting the show from the page to the stage is a process that no theatre can do alone. Every performing arts group depends on their volunteers.

A theatre based in Bloomington, called Community Players Theatre, takes volunteering a step further and actively recruits individuals interested in working "behind the scenes." Jason Wiggins, Community Relations Liaison for the Community Players Theatre, says, "We actually have a person on the board of

governors whose only duty is recruitment. You can basically send us an e-mail or call the box office, and we'll find something for you."

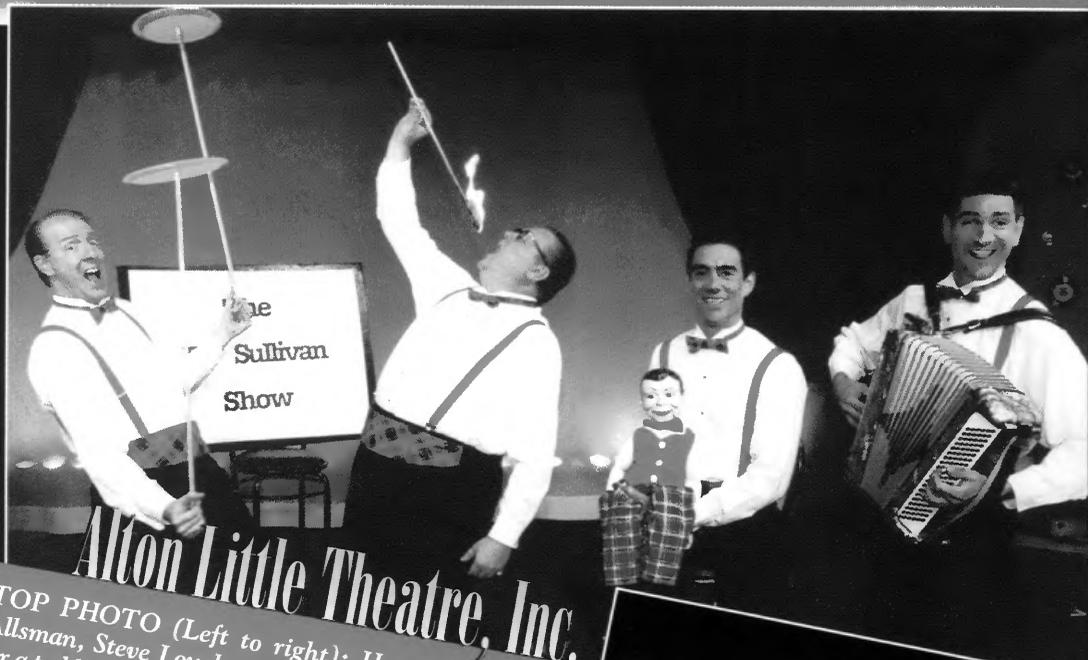
And you don't have to be an expert to help out. "Sometimes people become intimidated with the idea of being in charge. We've developed a mentor relationship between skilled volunteers and those just starting out. We often contact individuals interested in learning a particular aspect of the show, such as the lighting, and we match them up with an experienced volunteer. They act as an assistant and are able to build a comfort level. The next time around, they may be ready to run the lighting on their own," says Wiggins. "I encourage people to just try it out. We're not going to make you go out and do it all alone the first time."

Theatre provides the opportunity to meet people from differ-

ent backgrounds.

Wiggins says, "I just did a show where I worked with a welder, several insurance agents, and a woman who worked for the Red Cross. I was just thinking, 'Where would I meet most of these people?' My involvement in theatre has allowed me to meet people throughout the community, and that is one of the biggest benefits to me."

Meeting people and being in social settings are important for human development, and the arts also play an important role in the



**Alton Little Theatre, Inc.**  
**TOP PHOTO** (Left to right): Hoard White, Jeff Allsman, Steve Loucks and Genio DeLuca ham it up for a publicity shot for the play "Forever Plaid," shown at The Alton Little Theatre. Alton, a town of 33,000, has supported the local theatre since the 1930s.



**BOTTOM PHOTO:** Jane Schneider and Wayne Winkeler practice a scene from *The Alton Little Theatre's* showing of "Everybody Loves Opal."





# New Salem's theatre

**TOP PHOTO:** Union and Confederate soldiers square off in a singing duel during a sellout showing of "Shenandoah" at New Salem's Theatre in the Park in June.



**BOTTOM PHOTO:** Local theatre brings families and communities together. Here, a young family watches an outdoor performance of "Shenandoah."

development of our youth. With looming budget cuts in area school districts, art education could be one of the first things to go. "We feel, as a community theatre, it is our responsibility to expose younger generations to theatre, the arts and volunteer opportunities. This is why we started a 'Theatre for the Youth' program, which is held every summer. We want to get young people involved in theatre," Wiggins says.

The Community Players also

tries to reach younger audiences by performing newer shows that may be more interesting to teens and young adults. In the spring they performed "A Few Good Men," a play that was later turned into the movie with Tom Cruise and Jack Nicholson. "It really attracted a lot of people who normally don't come out to the theatre. We will usually try to put a show in our season that will attract a newer audience. Hopefully they will come to see us rather than going to a movie," says Wiggins.

People in one small central Illinois town can pass up the movies for a professional perfor-

mance of a play or musical. The Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan is the only professional theatre between Chicago and St. Louis and operates under a small professional theatre contract with the Actor's Equity Association (AEA), the union for actors and stage managers. It is also a member of the National Alliance for Musical Theatre and has been designated as an Established Regional Arts Institution by the Illinois Arts Council.

Situated in a town of 4,400, the Little Theatre on the Square plays to nearly 48,000 admissions each season. People come from all over Illinois, as well as Missouri, Kentucky and Indiana. The theatre, which operates from June through August, was founded as a commercial, or for-

profit, theatre by Guy S. Little, Jr. in 1957. Mr. Little closed the theatre in 1979 and moved to Milwaukee.

After several attempts at revitalization, a short period followed when the theatre was "dark," meaning no shows were produced. Local citizens then founded a non-profit corporation to bring the theatre back to life. Mr. Little returned in 1986 and assisted in the national search for the Little Theatre on the Square's current Executive Director, Leonard Anderson.

Unlike local community theatres, the Little Theatre on the Square receives its main support in the form of audience attendance. "We actually don't have a large volunteer group. Our ushers are usually the local middle school and high school



students and the technical crew members are either professionals, or interns earning college credit," says Anderson.

Jill Cathleen Seelhofer, a senior at Sullivan High School, has worked as a ticket office assistant and part-time house manager for the Little Theatre on the Square since 1999. Seelhofer is actively involved in theatre, choir, band and piano, making the Little Theatre on the Square an ideal workplace. Seelhofer says, "The confidence I have gained through numerous performances in show choir, band and theatre have led me to become actively involved in both school and community activities. I cannot imagine my future without music and theatre."

Seelhofer has also had the unique opportunity of performing in a Shakespeare production at the Little Theatre on the Square. Anderson says, "We attend auditions in St. Louis and Chicago and hold open auditions in Sullivan to cast the actors. We also use a good number of area children when we are doing shows that call for young actors."

These unique aspects make the Little Theatre on the Square very different from community theatres. However, the theatre, as a solid cultural entity, certainly adds to the quality of life in the area. Anderson says, "Many patrons will go out to dinner before they come to a show and they will need to pay for babysitters and gasoline. We estimate that we have more than a \$2 million economic impact on the area annually."

The Little Theatre on the Square also has an impact on area residents in the form of educational programs that are conducted in Sullivan during the school year. About 200 stu-

dents will participate in acting classes and jazz, ballet and tap dance lessons. Students range from pre-schoolers to senior citizens and come from within about a 30-mile radius of the theatre.

Keeping in the same spirit that arts education is important to our youth, theatres throughout Illinois are offering such programs. Many are hoping to light the sparkle in a child's eyes and make them a theatre lover for life.

The Quincy Community Theatre offers a program for area youth called the Children's Theatre Program. "To ensure our future we must ignite a flame in our children that will burn forever," is the goal of this program. Children participate in a variety of classes and full-scale productions, ensuring that the theatre will survive for generations to come. The Quincy Community Theatre also has a group called "Stage Kids" for area youth, ages 10 - 15 years old. The group is selected through auditions and presents a musical variety show for area events during the summer.

The Quincy Community Theatre has been a part of Quincy since 1923 and performs musicals, mysteries, comedies and dramas. The theatre is a member of the Quincy Society of Fine Arts, the Illinois Theatre Association and the American Association of Community Theatre. Auditions are open to the general public and are held six to seven weeks prior to a performance. Rehearsals are held 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

With a wide variety of ways to become involved and an assortment of talents needed, theatre in Illinois is important to adults and our youth. With your support, theatre will continue to thrive as new stars are born and introduced to the arts.

Theatre has a place for you, a "place" to play for a lifetime.

## Find a theatre near you

For more information about theatre in your community, contact your local chamber of commerce or visit your area library. And often, if you ask your neighbors and friends, you will find somebody who is actively participating in area theatre and would love to have you involved.

- **Alton Little Theater** (618) 462-6562. [www.altonlittletheater.org](http://www.altonlittletheater.org).
- **Monroe Actors Stage Company** (628) 939-7469. Leave a message requesting information.
- **Community Players Theatre** (309) 663-2121. <http://communityplayers.org>.
- **The Little Theatre on the Square** Business office (217) 728-2065. For reservations (217) 728-7375 or (888) 261-9675.
- **The Quincy Community Theatre** (217) 222-3209. [www.lqct.org](http://www.lqct.org).
- **Theatre in the Park at Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site** (800) 710-9290.
- To find other links to Illinois community theatre go to Gordon Productions [www.gordonproductions.com](http://www.gordonproductions.com)





Jennifer Hunt

# Home sweet, safe home

Most of us consider our home a safe place. I never really thought about the potential safety hazards that exist in my home until I began having younger and older family members to my home on a regular basis. As I began preparing my home to accommodate other family members, a question came to mind...

So, exactly how safe is my home?

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, about two million children are injured or killed by hazards in the home each year. The good news is there are many precautions that can be taken in the home to make it safer for children and other family members. Following some safety tips for certain living areas will help prepare your home for visitors of all ages.

A bedroom is one living area where potential safety hazards could occur. Some safety ideas for bedrooms include making sure children's furniture is sturdy and has no loose or missing hardware and using plastic outlet caps to help prevent electric shock. Another concern in bedrooms can be rugs. It's a good idea to make sure rugs are secure to help prevent falls. Placing furniture out of reach of windows and blinds or curtain cords can help prevent falls and possible strangulation.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends installing window blind cord safety tassels on mini blinds and tension devices on vertical blinds and drapery cords to help prevent accidents.

Another area of safety concern

in the home is the bathroom. Remember to keep medicine and cleaning products in their original containers with safety caps and out of reach of children.

Consider using an anti-scald device to check bath water temperature prior to bathing.

Another good tip is to keep cords, from such appliances as hair dryers or electric shavers, from dangling over the countertop edge. Dangling electrical cords could cause someone to trip and fall. Also, to prevent possible electrical shocks, remember not to leave electrical appliances plugged in near the sink or bathtub. To ensure your family's safety, install ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets in every bathroom, and in your kitchen and garage.

In the kitchen, use the stove's back burners and keep pot handles turned to the back of the stove. This will help prevent serious burns. Just as in the bathroom, remember to keep cleaning products in their original containers. Keep dangerous items such as knives, matches, and plastic bags out of reach of children.

Unplug small appliances when they're not in use and do not let cords dangle off a table or countertop. Do not use appliances that have damaged electric cords.



Damaged cords can cause electric shock or fires.

Using safety gates to block stairways is another safety tip. This will help prevent injuries from falls. Also, consider capping electrical outlets when they're not in use. This will help prevent electric shock.

Finally, installing smoke detectors on each floor of the home can help prevent fire deaths and injuries. Install carbon monoxide detectors to help prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. And be sure to follow proper instructions for installing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

We can't eliminate all the hazards in our homes, but taking a few safety precautions will help prevent injuries and accidents from occurring to our loved ones and other visitors. Don't put it off, start making your home safe today!

*Jennifer Hunt, Extension Educator the University of Illinois Springfield Extension Center, P.O. Box 8199, Springfield, IL 62791, (217) 782-6515, [jlhunt@uiuc.edu](mailto:jlhunt@uiuc.edu).*



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—David Moeller, Golden Valley, MN



David Robson

# Simple August gardening chores

**M**y mission in life is to develop a national holiday for August. There isn't one. Every other month has something exciting going on. August doesn't.

Calling the Illinois State Fair a holiday probably won't cut it. Few famous people born during the month deserve national recognition. Carl Yastrzemski comes to mind, though many won't agree that a baseball player, any player, is worthy to be recognized yet. And getting people to spell his last name correctly will be difficult.

Why is it important to have a national holiday during August? Well, many gardening chores can be associated with holidays. Labor Day is perfect for lawn work. Just about all lawn care operations such as seeding, sodding, aerating, dethatching, fertilizing and broad-leaf weed control occurs then.

Thanksgiving is great for winterizing equipment and feeding the lawn one last time. April 1, or Easter, is the start of the garden planting. July 4 is the last time to prune your shrubs until the first of October. Halloween is great for getting lots of candy.

But poor ol' August has nothing going for it. Just hot, dreary days with an occasional thunderstorm to cut the gravel road dust for a day.

Of course, on the other hand, there really isn't much to do during August. Sure, you can and should transplant iris during the month and everything will probably need a good watering.

Which brings to mind the one or two major tasks that can be accomplished this month, and more

toward the beginning. Fortunately for heat weary gardeners, they are simple, easy and painless.

The first is pinching.

This is not pinching a loved one, unless you look at your flowers as loved ones. If so, then I don't want to know about it.

Face it. While petunias are wonderful plants with a multitude of colors and habits, they start looking leggy and puny by mid-summer. That's because most of them have this strong sense of blooming at the ends of the branches. They grow an inch or so, produce a flower, grow another inch or so, then produce another flower. Geraniums are the same. So are zinnias.

Soon the plants are wispy threads of leaves and a scattered flower at the end.

They need, as some gardeners say, a haircut. More correctly, it's a pruning. A deadheading. A stimulation.

This is one of the easiest garden chores. You simply lift up the stems carefully, and then with a bold move on your part, you just cut them back by half. They don't scream. They don't run away. It's a perfect operation.

Now, some people have difficulty and they cut them back by 1 percent. Not enough. You have to go back by half.

There are two ways to help you along if you're scared. First, imagine the plant as hair reaching down to the middle of the back of your kid or grandkid, and they don't suspect you have the scissors. Easy.

Or, you can fortify yourself with any type of fermented

beverage. After a couple swallows, pruning isn't difficult.

Many of the annual garden flowers prefer this trimming. Cockscomb is about the only one that doesn't.

Which leads to the second chore - fertilizing.

By August, much of the nitrogen in the soil probably has been leached away or used by the plant. If you want to continue stimulating growth on your flowers and vegetables, you'll need to provide the food.

Some use granular fertilizer, such as a 10-10-10 and sprinkle a little bit around the plants, and then water it in. That's okay, also. Don't go hog wild. Just enough to re-stimulate growth. It's about a half pound per 100 feet of row or plants. Lightly work it into the soil.

Other people use a liquid or water-soluble fertilizer according to the directions, which is the only way to use it. They feed the plants, and then go inside and feed themselves. Perfectly acceptable as long as you follow the directions ... for the outside feeding, that is. Well, maybe the inside as well. Just don't accidentally pinch yourself at the same time.

*David Robson is an Extension Educator, Horticulture, at the Springfield Extension Center, University of Illinois Extension. You can write to Robson in care of Illinois Country Living, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708. Telephone: (217) 782-6515. E-Mail: robsond@mail.aces.uiuc.edu*



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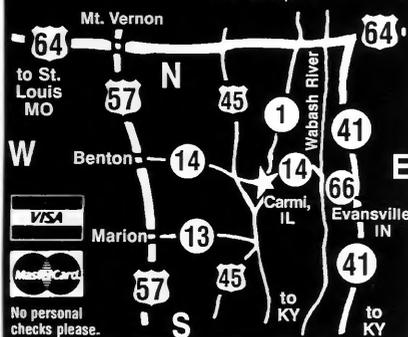
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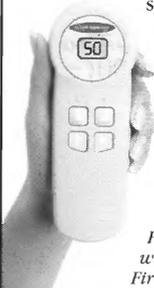
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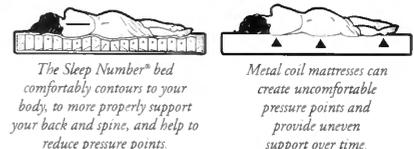
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James Dulley

# New window films stop summer heat

**Q:** Dear Jim: My windows are in good shape, but I want to block the heat and glare and reduce furniture fading. Will installing clear insulating do-it-yourself window film help much and also save energy during the winter?

- Meg H.

**A:** Dear Meg: When people think of residential window film, they often mistakenly think of the huge reflective glass office buildings that resemble mirrors. Actually, the most energy efficient residential window films have only slight reflectivity and tint. If you were inside a room with insulating window film installed, you would not even notice it.

Applying window film yourself or having it professionally installed is an excellent solution to minimize overheating, glare and fading. You will also be surprised at how pleasant it is to be in a room without harsh glare from windows. Instead of drawing the curtains or blinds and switching on a lamp, which uses electricity, you can often leave the curtains open and the lamp off. Using lamps during the summer also creates more heat your air conditioner has to run longer to remove.

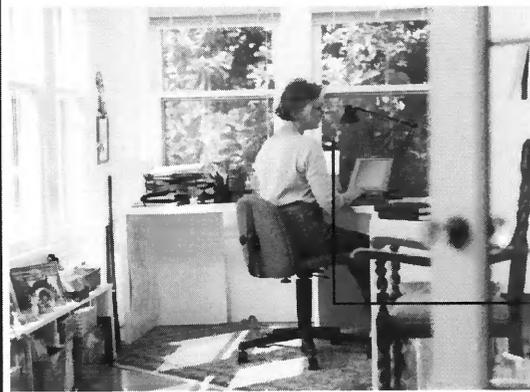
With normal window care and cleaning, the new residential window films may last 10 to 15 years. When you consider the year-round energy savings and resultant lower utility bills plus the longer life for furniture, curtains and carpeting, applying insulating window film

**How to install film**

- 1) measure window
- 2) wet/wash window
- 3) remove backing
- 4) place film on glass
- 5) squeegee film to glass
- 6) trim excess

Insulating window film rejects heat during summer (top) and keeps it indoors during winter (lower)

Residential window film reduces glare, heat and cold so it is comfortable to work near window



Window film improves efficiency year-round

can easily payback its cost.

Some manufacturers offer only do-it-yourself or professionally installed window films and others offer both. The primary difference between professional and do-it-yourself films is the type of invisible adhesive used to fix the film to the window. Professionally installed film usually has a fairly long warranty. You can purchase

special adhesive dissolving solution to use if you later decide to remove the film.

Many of the newer residential window films, especially the do-it-yourself insulating film kits, are nearly clear. Typical color choices for the lightly tinted films are platinum, gray and bronze. Even with just a slight tint, they can block more than 50 percent of the

total solar energy that hits your windows.

The new insulating window films function in a similar way to new efficient low-emissivity (low-e) replacement window glass. To create the low-e properties, a microscopically thin layer of metal is deposited on the film. This layer is so thin, visible light passes through it and it appears to be totally transparent. Window film is actually made of many layers and the metal film is deposited on the inner layers for protection.

Heat energy is a different wavelength than visible light and the thin metal layer is less transparent to it than to light. In this way, it reduces heat flow through your windows without interfering with the view. During the winter, the metal layer reduces heat loss from indoors, so your heating bills will be less. Your comfort, especially when sitting near a window on a cold day, will also be improved.

If you apply this insulating film to all of your east-, west- and south-facing windows, the reduction in your air-conditioning electric costs will be noticeable. Not only will the film block heat, but without the intense radiant heat and glare from windows, you often can be very comfortable with the thermostat set several degrees higher. This can result in up to a 10 percent electricity savings.

The clear plastic material used for the film naturally blocks almost all of the fading ultraviolet (UV) rays, but furniture and curtain fading has other causes such as visible light and heat through windows. The amount of tint and other solar properties of the film decrease these other causes of fading.

If you can wash a window, then you can easily install insulating window film yourself. You can purchase the film in pieces from a roll or already prepackaged and a simple installation kit. Most films have a water-activated adhesive on one side. Thoroughly wash the window and leave it wet. Wet the

film, place it over the window and squeegee it flat to the window. Cut off the excess around the edges and let it dry.

Although they look identical at the home center store, not all window film kits perform the same. Be sure to compare their properties - emissivity, shading coefficient and visible light transmission.

Lower emissivity films are best for year-round comfort and savings. Lower shading coefficient films block more heat. Lower visible light transmission films block more glare, but can make the window darker. All window films make glass shatter-resistant for safety during storms or around your children.

Write for (instantly download - [www.dulley.com](http://www.dulley.com)) Update Bulletin No. 617 - buyer's guide of seven window film manufacturers (plus a small piece) listing year-round insulating and sun control properties, colors, prices and DIY installation instructions. Please include \$3.00 and a business-size SASE. James Dulley, Illinois Country Living, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244

*James Dulley is a mechanical engineer who writes on a wide variety of energy and utility topics. His column appears in a large number of daily newspapers.*



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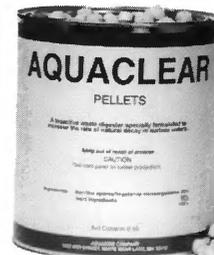
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### Orange Julius Tricia Poffenberger

- 6-oz. frozen orange juice
- 1/4 C. sugar
- 1 C. milk
- 1 C. water
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 10-12 ice cubes

Blend all ingredients together in a blender for 30 seconds.

### Autumn Fruit Salad Fairy Derrer

- 1 (6-oz.) pkg. lemon Jell-O
- 2 C. hot water
- 1 (8-oz.) can crushed pineapple, undrained
- 1 (16-oz.) can whole cranberry sauce, chilled
- 2 apples
- 1 C. celery, diced (opt.)

Dissolve Jell-O in the boiling water. Add the crushed pineapple and juice. Chill until partly set. Stir in cranberry sauce, diced apples and celery. Chill well.

### Mushroom Casserole Carol Sturtevant

- 1 lb. mushrooms, sliced
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1/2 C. chopped onion
- 1/2 C. chopped celery
- 1/2 C. chopped green pepper
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1-1/2 C. milk
- 1/2 C. salad dressing
- Grated cheese
- 6 slices white bread, buttered and cut into 1-inch cubes

Sauté mushrooms in butter. Put half of the bread cubes in the bottom of a buttered casserole dish and add the mushrooms, onion, celery, and green pepper. Mix salad dressing, eggs and milk together. Pour over the vegetables. Put rest of bread cubes on top. Frost with cream of mushroom soup. Refrigerate overnight. Bake at 300° for 60-70 minutes. Just before removing from the oven, sprinkle with grated cheese.

### Brown Sugar Cinnamon Sticks Chris Johnson

- 1 C. margarine
- 3/4 C. sugar
- 1/4 C. brown sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 egg, separated
- 2 C. flour
- 2 T. cinnamon
- 1-1/2 tsp. sugar
- 1 tsp. cinnamon

Beat margarine very lightly. Add 3/4 C. sugar and brown sugar and cream together. Add vanilla and egg yolk; mix well. Stir in flour and 2 T. cinnamon. Grease a 10x12-inch pan. Press the mixture out evenly in the pan. Beat the egg white and spread over batter. Combine 1-1/2 tsp. sugar and 1 tsp. cinnamon, sprinkle in pan. Bake at 275° for 35-40 minutes. Cut in stick-sized shapes while warm.

### Parmesan Chicken and Rice Renee Welch

- 1-1/4 C. long grain rice, uncooked
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 can cream of celery soup
- 1/4 C. butter, melted
- 1/4 C. milk
- 1/4 C. French dressing
- 6-8 chicken breasts
- 3-oz. Parmesan cheese

Mix liquids together and add uncooked rice. Pour 1/2 the mixture in a greased 9x13-inch pan. Cover with chicken, then rest of mixture. Sprinkle with cheese. Cover and bake 2-1/2 hours at 275°. Can be uncovered the last 20 minutes if too moist.



### The Cookie Jar Recipe Rosetta Appel

- 2-1/2 C. flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 C. (2 sticks) butter
- 1 C. granulated sugar
- 1 C. packed brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 tsp. vanilla

Mix flour, baking soda and salt in a small bowl. Beat butter and sugar in a bowl with a mixer until fluffy. Blend in eggs and vanilla. Add flour mixture, beating until blended. Stir in your choice of flavors (see below). Drop by tablespoons onto an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 375° for 8-10 minutes.

**Chunky Chocolate Chip Cookies:** Use 2 C. Baker's chocolate chips.

**Double Chocolate Brownies:** Mix 1/2 C. unsweetened cocoa with flour mixture. Add 2 C. Baker's semi-sweet chocolate chips.

**Raisin Cookies:** Stir in 2 C. of dark raisins, yogurt covered raisins or chocolate covered raisins.

**Applesauce Oatmeal:** Add 1/2 C. applesauce and 1-1/2 C. oats.

**Peanut Butter Chocolate Chip:** Mix 1/2 C. peanut butter and stir in 2 C. Baker's milk chocolate chips.





Our Lady of Good Counsel PSR of Renault submits its cookbook filled with 88 pages of fabulous recipes. The book is hard-backed, spiral bound and sells for \$10 plus \$5 shipping. To order, contact Heidi Nottmeier at 4113 Nottmeier Lane, Fults, IL 62244, or call her at (618) 458-6522.

### Taco Soup Elaine Marquart

- 1 lb. hamburger
- 1 med. onion
- 1 (15.5-oz.) can kidney beans
- 1 (14.5-oz.) can diced tomatoes
- 1 (17-oz.) can whole kernel corn
- 1 pkg. dry ranch dressing mix
- 1 pkg. taco seasoning mix
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 (32-oz.) can tomato juice

Brown hamburger and onion. Drain. Add rest of ingredients and heat thoroughly. Simmer at least 15 minutes to allow the flavors to blend. Serve over tortilla chips or with crackers.

### Green Beans and Hamburger Casserole Bernice Zeiger

- 1 (16-oz.) can green beans, reserve liquid
- 1 lb. hamburger
- 1 med. onion, chopped
- 3 med. potatoes, sliced
- 1/4 tsp. garlic salt
- 1 can cream of celery soup
- 1 C. grated cheese

Brown beef with onions in a skillet, stirring until crumbly. Place potatoes in a greased 6x10-inch baking dish. Spoon beef mixture over potatoes. Combine beans and garlic salt in a bowl. Spoon over hamburger. Combine soup and bean liquid and spread over beans. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake for 45 minutes at 350°.



### Pizza Dip Heidi Nottmeier

- Corn Chips
- 1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 1 (14-oz.) jar pizza sauce
- 1/3 C. onion, chopped
- 1-1/2 C. Mozzarella cheese, grated
- 1 (6-oz.) can ripe olives, drained and chopped
- 2-oz. sliced pepperoni

Preheat oven to 350°. Press cream cheese in the bottom of a 9-inch glass pie pan. Spread pizza sauce over cream cheese and layer remaining ingredients in order listed. Bake for 25 minutes. Serve with corn chips.



### Apricot Baked Ham Carol Nottmeier

- 5-7 lbs. fully cooked ham
- 20 whole cloves
- 1/2 C. apricot preserves
- 3 T. dry mustard
- 1/2 C. lightly packed brown sugar

Score the surface of the ham with shallow diamond shaped cuts. Insert cloves into cuts. Combine preserves and mustard. Spread over ham. Pat brown sugar over apricot mixture. Place ham on a rack in a roasting pan. Bake at 325° for 20 minutes per pound or until ham is heated through and thermometer reads 140°.

### Goopy Butter Cookies Debbie Doiron

- 1/2 C. butter, softened
- 1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 1 egg
- 1/4 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 (2-layer) pkg. butter recipe yellow cake mix
- 1-2 C. confectioners' sugar

Beat the butter, cream cheese, egg and vanilla in a mixing bowl until light and fluffy. Stir in the dry cake mix. Chill, covered for 30 minutes. Drop the dough by teaspoonfuls into a bowl of confectioners' sugar and roll into balls. Arrange on cookie sheets lightly coated with nonstick cooking spray. Bake at 350° for 12 minutes or until golden brown. Cool on wire racks. Makes 3 dozen.



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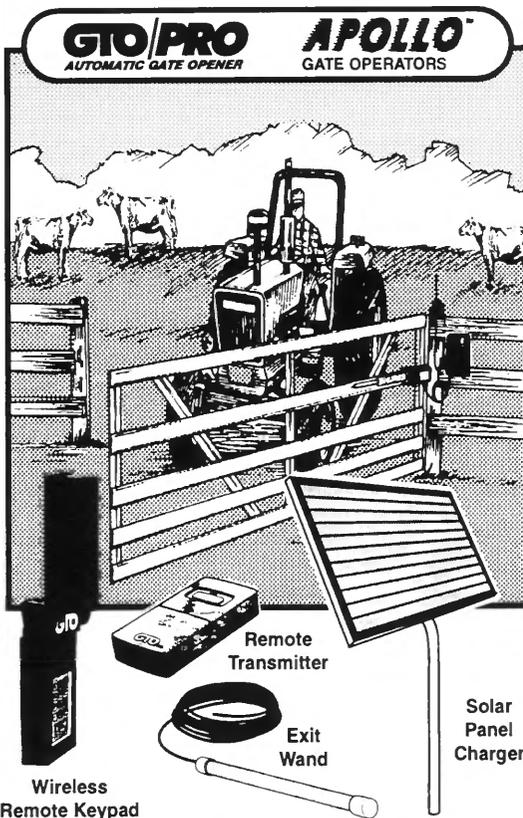
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**MISSIONARIES NEEDED** for October 2002 trip to East Africa. Teachers, preachers, medical, laborers. Contact Bro. Brady at **FIRETRAIN MINISTRIES** (618) 845-3748.

**CHILDREN'S BOOK - A Trip to the City & The Flowerpot.** The adventures of a mouse lost in the city and rescued by a cat & the adventures of two church mice. Send \$15.00 (includes tax & shipping) to Jessie Keen, Box 38, Keenes, IL 62851.

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**Illinois STATE FAIR TICKETS** - one day ticket includes gate admission and **UNLIMITED** rides \$17. August 9-18. Proceeds benefit Children's Miracle Network. (217) 544-5437 or [www.springfield-illinois.com/cmn](http://www.springfield-illinois.com/cmn).

Sept. 14-15, 2002 **COUNTRY COUSINS CAT SHOW CFA.** Peoria Civic Center, Hall A. Sat. 11a.m. - 5p.m. Sun. 9a.m. - 3p.m. Info. (309) 699-3773 or (309) 444-8970.

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- All ads must be in one paragraph form. No centered copy. Maximum of four all-capital words per ad.
- **Check/cash/money order payable to *Illinois Country Living* and member's address label must accompany order.**
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separate sheet if needed. Include your name, address and phone number. I am a member of \_\_\_\_\_ electric cooperative.

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**FOR SALE: CLYDESDALES,** registered. 1 mare with filly foal, 2 filly and 1 stallion one year old. Call (309) 874-2300.

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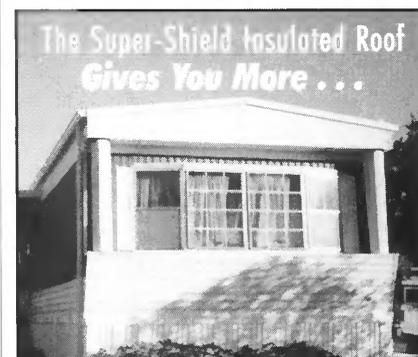
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# AUGUST DATEBOOK

**1-3, Whittington Gun Creek Days** in Benton. Food, crafts, music, tractor pulls and fun for everyone. (618) 438-2121 or benwccoc@midwest.net.

**2-4, Old Fashioned Lawn Party** at Dearborn House Antiques and Gardens in St. Charles. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Working artists, lemonade and tea cookies, croquet, costumed merchants and more. (630) 762-1034.

**2-4/8-11, Midsummer Night's Dream** at the Theatre in the Park at New Salem's Historic Site in Petersburg. (800) 419-8698.

**2, Maple City Cruise Night** in downtown Monmouth. Enjoy a car show, music, food, vendors and more. Free. (309) 734-8420.

**2, First Fridays** in Makanda, Carbondale, Murphysboro Cobden, Anna-Jonesboro and Marion. Numerous art galleries, coffeehouses, restaurants and merchants plan special activities from art exhibits to live music. Free. (618) 549-7838.

**2-4, Galena Dream Weavers Corvette Rally** in Galena. A Friday night reception at Victorian Pines Inn and Spa will open this event. Saturday, enjoy the rally, a drive through Jo Daviess County, lodging package giveaways, a hog roast and corn boil. Sunday's events are still to be announced. (866) 817-1637.

**2-31, "Only an Orphan Girl"** at Turner Hall in Galena. Fridays and Saturdays. Local thespians join forces to perform during this dinner theatre. Enjoy a gourmet dinner, cheer the hero and boo the villain in a good old-fashioned in-the-round family-friendly melodrama. Dinner at 6:30 p.m., \$25. Show only at 8:00 p.m., \$10. Reservations required. (815) 777-1594.

**3, Farmers Market** in the Westown Mall parking lot in Carbondale. Area farmers, gardeners and crafters sell their produce, plants, crafts and homemade baked goods. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. (618) 893-4281.

**3-4, The Fourth Annual Peaches and Cream Festival** at Apple Basket Farms in Barry. Just picked orchard fresh peaches join the Western Illinois Dairy Association with homemade



peach pie and hand-cranked peach ice cream. Learn how peaches are grown and feed a baby calf. (217) 335-2670.



**2-4, Western Illinois Threshers Show** in Hamilton. Featuring Allis Chalmers Tractors and Vintage Garden Tractors. Goods, demonstrations, antique crafts, entertainment and a flea market. (217) 847-2690.

**3-4, Prairie Tales Storytelling Festival** at Lincoln's New Salem Historic Site in Petersburg. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nationally acclaimed storytellers will converge on New Salem for this two-day event. *Prairie Tales* is one of the best family events in the Midwest and a nationally renowned storytelling festival. Tales will be woven continuously on two stages, nestled between the log buildings in this village. (217) 632-4000.

**4, Night Hike** at Hennepin Canal Parkway State Park in Sheffield. Join the interpreter for a quiet evening's stroll along the canal. Nature may reward us with a spectacular moonrise, you never know. Bug spray and flashlights are optional. (815) 454-2328.

**4, Antique Tool Show and Sale** at the Garfield Farm Museum in St. Charles. (630) 584-8485.

**4, Garden and Herb Myths** at Homestead Prairie Farm in Decatur. Homestead Prairie Farm is an educational and fun family-oriented history museum. All programs are free to the public and begin at 2 p.m. (217) 423-7708.

**4, Hunter/Jumper Equestrian Show** at Shenandoah Riding Center near Galena. Rain or shine, \$6 per class plus \$2 office fee per horse/rider combination. Phone for track and apparel regulations. (815) 777-2373.

**5-6, National Night Out** at Long Fellow Park in Murphysboro. Games for kids, refreshments and more. (618) 684-4961.

**7, 21, 28, Café in the Park** in Galesburg. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Food will be for sale at this outdoor café. You can enjoy live music, artwork on display and much more.

**7-11, Tinsmithing Demonstration** at Lincoln's New Salem Historic Site in Petersburg. Don Jarrett of Round Lake Beach, Illinois will demonstrate the fine art of tinsmithing, making punched tin candle lanterns, nutmeg graters, tankards and wall sconces. (217) 632-4000.

**8, Sunset Concerts** at SIU Shryock/Turley Park in Carbondale. Every Thursday night, Carbondale hosts an outdoor concert, which features some of the Midwest region's best bands. A variety of styles, ranging from jazz to country. Free. (618) 529-4147.

**9-18, Illinois State Fair** at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. You and your family can enjoy 10 days of constant excitement and entertainment, everything from top name stars to chilling carnival rides during the 2002 Illinois State Fair. (217) 782-6661.

**9-11, Kilroy Was Here (Youth Theatre)** at Country Theatre Workshop in Cissna Park. (815) 457-2343.

**9-11, Hardin County Heritage Fest - Reliving History 2002** in Elizabethtown. A three-day event packed with fun. Vendors, crafts, demonstrations, exhibits, food, a rodeo, a Civil War reenactment, a BBQ cook-off, a bake-off, Pioneer games, a Period Ball and much more. (618) 285-6191.





**6-7/13-14, Where Butterflies Grow** at Children's Discovery Museum in Bloomington. Kids age 3, 4 or 5-years-old can come to this one-hour interactive program and learn about how caterpillars change into beautiful butterflies. They are so fun to watch. Read a beautiful story and make your own fluttering creations. 10 to 11 a.m. for children and their adult partners. (309) 829-6222.

**12, Meta-what?** at Children's Discovery Museum in Bloomington. Kindergarten kids can come to this one-hour drop off program and learn how caterpillars change into butterflies. Learn about metamorphosis and which plants are necessary for butterflies to live. Talk about butterfly gardens and take home seeds to help you start your own garden. (309) 829-6222.

**9-11/14-18, South Pacific** at the Muni in Springfield. Get out your sun block and cruise to exotic South Sea Islands with World War II Navy men and nurses who, amidst the hilarity and camaraderie of base life, personally struggle to cope with abrupt changes in their lives and attempt to overcome prejudices. (217) 793-MUNI.

**10, Fourth Annual Western Illinois Grape Producer's Tour.** Tour West Central Illinois vineyards beginning in Pittsfield and continuing through Camp Point to Mt. Sterling. Hear presentations on wine grape production and the industry. A wine tasting session will be presented by Galena Cellars. (217) 734-9307 or (217) 289-3366.

**10-11, Air Odyssey Air Show** at Mt. Vernon Airport in Mt. Vernon. Professional performers, static displays, airplane rides, concessions and more. (800) 252-5464.

**10-18, Sweet Corn and Watermelon Festival** in downtown Mt. Vernon. Free sweet corn and watermelon, a parade, a flea market, car shows, biathlon, music, a teen dance, fishing tournament, archery contest and much more. (800) 252-5464.

**12, Water, Water Everywhere** at Children's Discovery Museum in Bloomington. Kids first through third grade can learn about the different properties of H<sub>2</sub>O. Experiment with surface tension and buoyancy. Use water for art and talk about other ways water is used. Dress to get wet. This is a two-hour drop off program, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. designed to offer hands-on science activities in an age appropriate environment. Snacks are included. (309) 829-6222.

**22-24/29-31, Run For Your Wife** at Country Theatre Workshop in Cissna. (815) 457-2343.

**23-9/2, DuQuoin State Fair** in DuQuoin. Five days of World Class Harness Racing highlighted by the World Trotting Derby. Ten fun-filled nights of grandstand entertainment, a fabulous carnival midway, daily livestock shows, a Quarter Horse show, an expanded, unique home show, concessions and commercial exhibits. Entertainment Alley - fun for the whole family, complete with an Exotic petting zoo, singers, jugglers and children's shows. (618) 542-1515.

**25, Illinois Indian Heritage Celebration** at the Dickson Mounds Museum in Lewistown. In conjunction with the special exhibit *Moving the Fire: The Removal of Indian Nations* to Oklahoma, Dickson Mounds Museum presents a special program on the Indian cultures of Illinois. Dr. Robert Warren, anthropologist and John Froman, Chief of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Miami, Oklahoma, will give a joint presentation on "The Peoria Indian Tribe and the Illinois State Museum History and Cultural Heritage." (309) 547-3721.

**26-9/1, State Farm Classic** at The Rail Golf Course in Sherman. Some of the top women golfers on the professional circuit compete for a huge purse in the Classic's 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary tournament. (217) 528-5742.

**30-9/1, Ethnic Festival** at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. Tour the world at this annual Labor Day weekend event. Cultures from around the globe are featured through food, music and dance. Free. (217) 529-8189.

**30-9/1, Springfield Mile Grand National Championship Motorcycle Race** at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. Enjoy fast-paced action and non-stop thrills in this annual Labor Day weekend national level dirt track motorcycle race on the world famous "Springfield Mile." (217) 753-8866.

**30-9/2, Colchester Labor Day Celebration** in downtown Colchester. This four-day festival has a carnival with a show tent in the park and big shows in the evening. Food vendors and flea marketers all from the town. (309) 776-4813.

**31, The Sixth Annual Grand Opening of Farmer Jack's Amazing Corn Maze** at Apple Basket Farms in Barry. Get lost with the best in the Midwest's largest corn maze. Open every weekend through November 3. (217) 335-2670.

**31, Italian Fest** at Jacobs Park in Farmington. Enjoy food athletic events, games, a local talent contest and entertainment. (309) 245-2441 or [www.farmington.com](http://www.farmington.com).

**31, Kick Off the Fall** at Eckert's Country Store and Farms in Belleville. Apple picking season begins at Eckert's Farms. Ride the wagons to pick your own apples. (618) 233-0513.



**31-9/4, Warren County Prime Beef Festival** in Monmouth. Enjoy a princess pageant, twilight parade, carnival, food, rides, industrial tent, antique tractor pull, figure 8 races, demo derby and more. (309) 734-3181.

The Illinois Bureau of Tourism has launched its summer savings coupon book. This free book is loaded with savings on lodgings, restaurants, entertainment, and outdoor activities throughout Illinois. To receive your free copy, call (800) 2CONNECT or visit [www.enjoyillinois.com](http://www.enjoyillinois.com).

**Illinois Country Living publishes event listings as space allows, giving preference to events of regional or statewide interest. Event listings are provided by the event sponsors and the Illinois Bureau of Tourism. The magazine assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of information submitted for publication and advises calling ahead to confirm dates and times. To be considered for inclusion, send listings and photographs (If sending photographs please include self-addressed stamped envelope) to Illinois Datebook, Illinois Country Living, PO Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708-3787. The deadline for submission is 45 days prior to the publication date.**



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**A**s part of a National Advertising Campaign, we are offering the **Miami 48 Hour Diet for Free** - yes, that's right- for Free! (You only pay a small shipping and handling charge.) You can finally beat the daily struggle millions of Americans experience in trying to lose weight. Other diet plans either work too slowly or you just lose a pound or two. Thanks to a breakthrough in nutritional science, there's the **Miami 48 Hours Diet Plan**. With it, you can safely lose up to **10 pounds and 6 inches in only two days!** And now, the original Miami 48 Hour Diet that has sold for over \$30.00 is **FREE!**

## LOSE WEIGHT FAST & EASY!

The **Miami 48 Hour Plan** looks and tastes like a delicious orange-flavored drink, but it's actually a special formula rich in essential vitamins and minerals to give you all the nutrients you need while you lose weight. For 2 days you'll be eliminating fats, sugars and artificial ingredients. Instead, you'll fill your body with the essential vitamins and

nutrients that the **Miami 48 Hour Diet** is made of.

## INSTANT RESULTS!

Best of all, this diet offers instant results--- in only two days you'll see amazing results! Think of all the times you've had an important event that you wanted to lose weight for...well now you can! **Take off up to 10 pounds for a wedding, vacation, date, anything!**

## RESULTS GUARANTEED!

Try the **Miami 48 Hour Diet Plan** and **LOSE WEIGHT NOW**. Guaranteed results or send back for a full product refund. 30 day money back guarantee!

**Call now for your free Miami 48 Hour Diet and lose up to 10 lbs. GUARANTEED!**

Fast Service Call Toll Free...

**1-888-397-1676**

24 hours a day ~ 7 days a week

Due to overwhelming response, limited one order per family!



## Actual Testimonials From Our Many Satisfied Customers:

"The Miami 48 Hour Diet plan works great! I lost 10 lbs and 5 inches in just 2 days. I recommend it to anyone." ... Norine

"I went on the Miami 48 Hour Diet Plan for a wedding... I looked good in my dress, but I wanted to look great! I lost 5 lbs and 6 inches in just 2 days. How simple is that?!" ... Jackie

"This diet is absolutely wonderful. It's a juice, you take it for 2 days. I have actually taken off 7 lbs & 9". I'm now in clothes that I have not been able to fit in over a year!" ... Amy

"The juice tasted very good. I was definitely surprised. It far surpassed any of the other diet drinks I've ever tried. In 2 days, I lost 8 lbs and 4.25 inches!" ... Dollie

# PAIN RELIEF IN MINUTES ...GUARANTEED!

Discover the new natural solution to pain relief, help to reduce soreness and restore the ease of movement - in just minutes!

Blessed relief from pain in just minutes as you apply soothing MagnaBlue

NOT ~~\$39~~

OURS  
AS LOW AS

**\$7.50**  
EA

AS SEEN  
ON  
TV



Amazingly eases soreness and restores your freedom of movement!

With MagnaBlue, you can do the things you love most again, even Arthritis sufferers.

MagnaBlue relieves pain from aching hands within minutes!

## 100% NATURAL SOOTHING HERBAL EXTRACTS & DEEP PENETRATING ESSENTIAL OILS FOR PAIN RELIEF IN JUST MINUTES

This unique formulation of deeply penetrating EMU OIL, ALOE, MSM and HERBAL EXTRACTS temporarily relieves minor aches and pains from backaches, arthritis, strains, bruises, more! Here's how simple it works. Massage a dab of the non-greasy MagnaBlue gel onto the affected area and **PAIN IS GONE IN MINUTES!** Get back to the things you enjoy- gardening, exercising, dancing, you name it! Satisfaction Guaranteed or send back for a full product refund! At these incredible low prices, supplies won't last long. **ORDER TODAY FOR PAIN RELIEF NOW!**



## CALL TOLL FREE:

**1-800-626-8160**

24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Or mail coupon below.

Mail to: **MAGNABLUE**, Dept. 930  
6960 Eastgate Blvd., Lebanon, TN, 37090

Please rush me:

- One MagnaBlue Only \$9.95 + \$3.95 S&H (Total \$13.90).
- SAVE!** 2 MagnaBlues Only \$17.95 + \$5.95 S&H (Total \$23.90).
- SAVE MORE!** 3 MagnaBlues Only \$24.95 + \$7.95 S&H (Total \$32.90).
- BEST OFFER!** 4 MagnaBlues Only \$29.95 + \$7.95 S&H (Total \$37.90).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is check or M.O. for \_\_\_\_\_ (NY, NJ, & TN res. add sales tax.)

Charge my:  VISA  MasterCard  Disc  Am Ex

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Sorry, orders must be placed on a first-come first-serve basis, please order early to avoid disappointment.

Top Choice of Fund-Raisers Everywhere

# Fruit Pie Candles

**FRUIT PIE CANDLES** are uniquely designed to look and smell like freshly baked pies. That's why these candles are the top choice of fund-raisers everywhere. Packed 12 Fruit Pie Candles per carry case in an assortment of six delicious fruit flavors. You sell each candle for \$5.00.

**FREE BONUS CASES** - For every 7 cases you order and sell, your group receives one FREE case worth \$60.00 more in profits!

**SUPER 50% PROFIT**  
WITH FREE BONUS CASE PROFITS!

**PROFITS ADD UP FAST!**

Sell	Free Bonus	Total Profit
7 cases	1 case	\$240.24
21 cases	3 cases	\$720.75
28 cases	4 cases	\$961.00
42 cases	6 cases	\$1,441.50
56 cases	8 cases	\$1,922.00

To: **Revere COMPANY** PO Box 751, Montgomery, AL 36101-0751

- Please send \_\_\_ Cases of FRUIT PIE CANDLES
- Please send a sample FRUIT PIE CANDLE. Enclosed is \$5.00

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Group Name \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Members \_\_\_\_\_

School/Church/Scout \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Organization Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Name, address and phone of 2 additional adult officers:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Adult Responsible for Order/Payment

**TERMS:** For your convenience, freight is prepaid to you. These charges appear on your bill and you are given extra free merchandise from the sale of this extra free merchandise completely pay for the freight. All orders subject to approval. Payment for full not due until 30 days after receipt of merchandise. Unopened full cases of merchandise may be returned freight prepaid by you within 45 days of scheduled sales date less a \$2.00 per case charge for reinspection and restocking. To qualify for FREE Bonus Case payment must be made by invoice date with no returns. Price and styles subject to change.

**Order Now!**  
**Call TOLL FREE**  
**1-800-876-9967**