

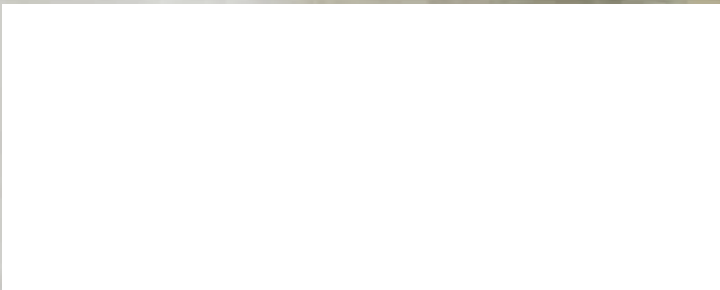
**Your
Electric
Cooperative's**

Illinois Country Living

February 2014 • icl.coop

Where the jobs are

Skilled employees needed for thousands of Illinois jobs



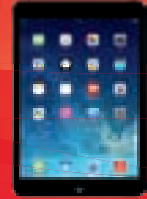
dish

DISH TV Service promotional prices start at

\$19.99

a month for 12 mo.
(Reg. price \$32.99 | mo.)
(Not eligible for Hopper or iPad mini offer)

ENTERTAINMENT ANYWHERE.



Only from DISH
Get an iPad mini free
when you sign up for
DISH and the Hopper:

Cannot be combined with promotional pricing. Everyday prices start at \$64.99/mo. Requires 24-month commitment, credit qualification and qualifying programming.

Bundle & Save

DISH TV Service + High-Speed Internet

For One Low Price Ask for details

FREE

Up To
6 Room
Installation

Channel selection will vary by package

Logos: AMC HD, NBC, QVC, FOX NEWS CHANNEL, food network, CW, CBS, TBN, COMERANG SAP, PBS, EHD

FREE

HOPPER

WHOLE-HOME HD DVR UPGRADE

Available with qualifying packages.

Watch 4 HD programs on different TVs simultaneously

RECORD UP TO 2000 HOURS
IN MORE THAN ANY OTHER DVR

Monthly DVR and receiver fees apply.

All offers require 24-month commitment and credit qualification.

FREE

HBO

CINEMAX

SHOWTIME

starz

BLOCKBUSTER @HOME

for 3 mo.
Offer subject to change based on premium channel availability.

Logos: FOX, travelHD CHANNEL, HSN, FX, A&E HD, bio. MOUNTAIN CHANNEL, div network, ANIMAL PLANET, nickelodeon

CALL TODAY

ASK ABOUT **NEXT-DAY INSTALLATION** (in most areas)

1-855-895-9100

WWW.INFINITYDISH.COM

WE ARE OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
8 AM - MIDNIGHT EST • SUNDAY 9 AM - MIDNIGHT EST
OFFER ONLY GOOD FOR NEW DISH SUBSCRIBERS

dish
AUTHORIZED RETAILER



(courtesy of InfinityDISH, certain conditions apply)

STARTING AT **\$14.95***
(subject to availability)

HIGH-SPEED
INTERNET NOW AVAILABLE

All calls with InfinityDISH are monitored and recorded for quality assurance and training purposes. **Important Terms and Conditions:** **Promotional Offers:** Require activation of new qualifying DISH service. All prices, fees, charges, packages, programming, features, functionality and offers subject to change without notice. After 12-month promotional period, then-current everyday monthly price applies and is subject to change. **ETF:** If you cancel service during first 24 months, early termination fee of \$20 for each month remaining applies. For iPad mini offer, if you cancel service during first 24 months, early cancellation fee of \$30 for each month remaining applies. **Activation fee may apply.** **Additional Requirements: For iPad mini Offer:** Customer must select Hopper system and minimum of America's Top 120 package; allow 4-6 weeks for delivery; offer not available in Puerto Rico or USVI. ETF based in part on everyday price (i.e. non-promotional price) for programming. Available while supplies last. Model subject to change without notice. **Premium Channels:** 3-month premium offer value is \$165; after promotional period, then-current everyday monthly prices apply and are subject to change. Blockbuster @ Home requires Internet to stream content. HD-only channels not available with select packages. **Installation/Equipment Requirements:** Free Standard Professional Installation only. Certain equipment is leased and must be returned to DISH upon cancellation or unreturned equipment fees apply. Upfront and additional monthly fees may apply. Recording hours vary; 2000 hours based on SD programming. Equipment comparison based on equipment available from major TV providers as of 1/17/14. Watching live and recorded TV anywhere requires an Internet-connected, Sling-enabled DVR and compatible mobile device. **Miscellaneous:** Offers available for new and qualified former customers, and subject to terms of applicable Promotional and Residential Customer agreements. State reimbursement charges may apply. Additional restrictions and taxes may apply. **Offers end 6/12/14.** HBO®, Cinemax® and related channels and service marks are the property of Home Box Office, Inc. SHOWTIME is a registered trademark of Showtime Networks Inc., a CBS Company. STARZ and related channels and service marks are property of Starz Entertainment, LLC. iPad is a trademark of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. Apple is not a participant in or sponsor of this promotion. Visa® gift card must be requested through your DISH Representative at time of purchase. \$25 Visa® gift card requires activation and \$2.95 shipping and handling fee. You will receive a claim voucher within 3-4 weeks and the voucher must be returned within 30 days. Your Visa® gift card will arrive in approximately 6-8 weeks. InfinityDISH charges a one-time \$49.95 non-refundable processing fee. Indiana CPD. Reg. No. T.S. R1903. *Certain restrictions apply. Based on the availability in your area.

Illinois Country Living

Published by

Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives
6460 South Sixth Frontage Road East,
Springfield, IL 62712

www.icl.coop

800-593-2432 • aieinfo@aiec.coop

**For address changes contact your
local electric co-op.**

President/CEO

Duane Noland

Chairman of the Board

Larry Kraft

Editor

John Lowrey

Assistant Editor

Valerie Cheatham

Contributing Editor

Ed VanHoose

Public Relations/ Business Development Manager

Lisa Rigoni

Advertising Coordinator/ Graphic Designer

Sandy Wolske

Graphic Designers

Jennifer Danzinger, Kathy Feraris,
Chris Reynolds

Circulation Coordinator

Connie Newenham

Illinois Country Living is a monthly publication serving the communications needs of the locally owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives of Illinois. With a circulation of more than 181,000, the magazine informs cooperative members about issues affecting their electric cooperative and the quality of life in rural Illinois.

Illinois Country Living (ISSN number 1086-8062) is published monthly and is the official publication of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, 6460 South Sixth Frontage Road East, Springfield, IL 62712. The cost is \$2.50 plus postage per year for members of subscribing cooperatives and \$12 per year for all others. Periodical postage paid at Springfield, Illinois, and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Illinois Country Living, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708.

ADVERTISING: Contact Lisa Rigoni, Advertising Manager – 1-800-593-2432 or lrigoni@aiec.coop. Acceptance of advertising by the magazine does not imply endorsement by the publisher or the electric cooperatives of Illinois of the product or service advertised. Illinois Country Living is not responsible for the performance of the product or service advertised.



Touchstone Energy[®]
www.touchstoneenergy.com

The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and 24 Illinois electric cooperatives are members of Touchstone Energy, a national alliance of 740 electric cooperatives. Touchstone Energy cooperative employees adhere to four core values — integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.



Printed with
inks containing
soy and/or
vegetable oils



10 WHERE THE JOBS ARE

Illinois manufacturing companies are seeking qualified personnel for advanced positions. *On the cover is Michelle Wolf, a Central Office Switching Technician for a major telecom company.*

Volume 71, No. 10, February 2014

4 COMMENTARY

AIEC CEO Duane Noland explains why the key to affordable electric rates requires an all-of-the-above strategy.

6 CURRENTS

Scammers are targeting electric cooperative members. Be aware so you don't get caught.

14 SAFETY & HEALTH

Public safety is the number one concern of your co-op during power outages.

16 YARD & GARDEN

David Robson discusses the best way to water orchids.

18 ENERGY SOLUTIONS

Doug Rye explains how blower door energy audits can reveal hidden air infiltration.

22 FINEST COOKING

24 POWERED UP

Ed answers a reader's question about Microsoft 8.

25 MARKETPLACE

27 LISTEN TO YOUR HEART

February is American Heart Month and RECC member Coleen Mays explains why listening to your body is of vital importance.

30 DATEBOOK

Help keep rates affordable

The key to affordable rates is an “all-of-the-above” energy strategy

Illinois’ not-for-profit electric cooperatives work very hard to provide their members with electricity that is safe, reliable and affordable. Co-ops support an “all-of-the-above” energy strategy, one that incorporates coal, natural gas, nuclear and renewable energy to generate power. While this strategy was endorsed by President Obama in his January 2012 State of the Union Address, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was subsequently directed to issue-proposed rules that will virtually eliminate coal from this equation for new power plants — resulting in an “all-but-one” policy. And, expected follow-up proposed rules on existing power plants, if adopted, will likely result in substantially increased power costs for our homes and businesses.

The background is as follows: On January 8, 2014, the U.S. EPA formally published proposed rules that would set stringent limits on carbon emissions from new power plants and opened up a 60-day comment period for feedback. While electric cooperatives understand the environmental concern, these rules would rely on the use of carbon capture and storage technology, a technology that is both expensive and unproven at a power plant scale. This essentially eliminates coal as a potential fuel source. Additionally, the rules on new power plants will trigger a legal requirement under the Clean Air Act to set new standards for existing plants as well, a measure that will have a direct economic

impact on cooperatives and their member owners.

Electric co-ops are dedicated to a cleaner environment as part of their commitment to the communities they serve. Our member generation and transmission cooperatives currently produce power from a wide variety of sources including solar, landfill gas-to-energy, anaerobic digesters, hydro, wind and natural gas power projects. Having said that, the vast majority of our co-op power production remains coal-fired, traditionally the most cost-effective and reliable source. New EPA regulations eliminating coal from the mix will mean higher energy costs.

We’ve seen this “all-but-one” policy before in our country’s recent history. Concerned about natural gas supplies, Congress passed the Fuel Use Act in 1978 which prohibited burning natural gas to generate electricity. As a result, co-ops invested heavily in coal-based generating plants in the late

1970s and early 1980s to meet growing demand for baseload power. Nine years later Congress repealed that Act.

Cooperatives nationwide have investigated the carbon capture and storage technology (CCS) as a way to reduce carbon emissions. However, as it stands today, it is not economically feasible. A 2012 Congressional Budget Office report estimated CCS would increase the cost of producing electricity from coal-based plants by 75 percent.

In a cooperative there are no stockholders to share the burden of cost increases.

While we greatly respect EPA’s objectives, any cost increases our not-for-profit co-ops incur must be passed on directly to the member-owners.

The EPA is required to take public comments, and I urge you to let the U.S. EPA know that you support a reasonable “all-of-the-above” energy policy to keep electricity affordable. Please visit www.action.coop to share your comments and learn more about U.S. EPA’s proposal. This grassroots effort is critical in keeping electricity reliable and affordable in the future for all of us. It only takes 1 minute to make your voice heard — and to make a difference. ■

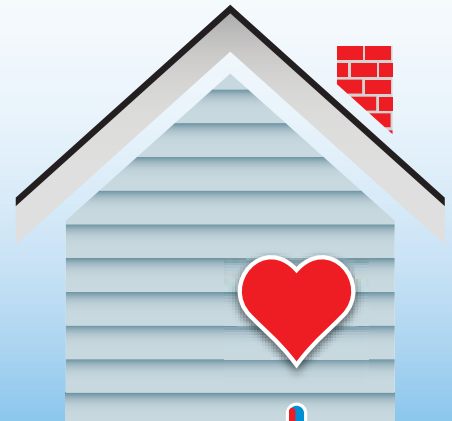
Former Illinois State Senator N. Duane Noland is the President/CEO of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, Springfield and a member of Shelby Electric Cooperative.



Get to
know
GEO Ground loops are
the heart of every
system



There's so much more to geothermal heating and cooling than just the magic box. The science behind how it works is quite simple. By using the heat of the earth to more efficiently heat and cool your home, you'll be able to reap incredible benefits. This includes lower utility bills, superior comfort inside your home, and a quiet that only comes from geothermal. And the secret starts with installing a ground loop...



Talk to your GeoComfort
Geothermal Dealer today for
more information, and Live
Comfortably.

Bauer Comfort Center
Cissna Park
800-457-2589

**Bratcher Heating & Air
Conditioning**
Bloomington/Normal
309-454-1611
bratchercomfort.com

**Bratcher Heating & Air
Conditioning**
Champaign
217-378-4328

**Bratcher Heating & Air
Conditioning**
Paxton
217-370-6305

Climate Company
Breese
618-526-2135

Engel Heating & Cooling
Collinsville
618-344-0359

Ernst Heating & Cooling
Hamel
618-633-2244

Fowler Heating & Cooling
Marion
618-997-5288

**Jaenke Heating & Air
Conditioning**
Waterloo
618-939-8029

KCH Mechanical Inc.
Effingham
217-347-5755

LD Mechanical Contractors
Charleston
217-345-9633

**McCann & Sons A/C &
Heating Inc.**
Alto Pass
618-893-4887

Neal's Heating & Cooling
Marissa
618-295-3402

**Neuhaus Heating &
Cooling**
Litchfield
217-324-2818

Pederson HVAC
New Baden
618-588-2402
pedersonhvac.net

**Pioneer Homes Heating,
Cooling, & Insulation**
Taylorville
217-820-0481

**R&H Plumbing & Heating
Inc.**
Altamont
618-483-6159

South Side Hardware
Greenfield
217-368-2705

Weeke Sales & Service
Okawville
618-243-5333
weekecustomcomfort.com

Weidner Refrigeration
Divernon
217-628-3400

William J. Kraus & Son
Keocuk, IA
319-524-3714

Energy prices depend on the energy mix

All of us understand that diversity, not putting all your eggs in one basket, is a good way to manage risk and moderate economic bad news. When it comes to energy and electricity prices electric cooperative leaders believe this same basic principle holds true. We should have an all of the above energy mix, invest in new technology development and practice energy efficiency religiously.

The smart solution to providing affordable energy for Illinois is using a balanced mix of our resources. But due to the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed all-but-one (coal) approach, reliable, affordable power might be in jeopardy in Illinois and across the U.S.

Here are the top four facts about the EPA's new climate regulations:

1. EPA abandons the energy policy of fuel diversity in our generation mix. Maintaining a mix of different energy resources increases supply and is critical to keeping electricity reliable and affordable. Although Congress could not come to a consensus on this issue, the EPA is trying to mandate an "all-but-one" policy that would eliminate coal from the mix.
2. It's a technology gamble. The newly proposed regulations would require that any new coal units utilize

a technology that has not even been fully developed or commercialized. In addition to being infeasible, imposing that type of regulation for coal plants would make their operation unaffordable.

3. EPA limits access to affordable, domestic energy. By virtually banning new coal plants and possibly requiring the shutdown of existing ones, America will be abandoning a 236-year old domestic source of energy with a historically stable price.
4. It doesn't work. A 1978 federal law, the "Fuel Use Act," prohibited the use of natural gas for manufacturing or boiler fuel. This caused all U.S. utilities to start building coal and nuclear power plants. The loss of fuel diversity raised prices for homeowners, businesses and industry. This reality caused Congress to repeal that law nine years later. Shouldn't we learn from our past mistakes? Losing energy diversity increases rates and puts American industry at risk.

If you'd like to help us keep energy affordable then let the EPA know that we need some common sense solutions that also help keep energy affordable. Visit www.action.coop today and send a message to the EPA. ■

Co-ops using new ice index to prepare for outages

If the weather forecaster says your area could see a foot of snow, you know it's going to be a mess on the roads. But what if the prediction is for ice? Do you know if there will be a power outage? If so, how bad will it be and how long will it last? A new ice storm forecasting tool may help provide answers to electric cooperatives and others.



In October, Sid Sperry, who works for the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives, spoke to Illinois electric cooperative employees about a new ice storm warning program he helped develop along with Steven Piltz, Chief Meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Tulsa,

Oklahoma. Together they developed the Sperry-Piltz Ice Accumulation Index (<http://www.spia-index.com>).

Sperry says the forecasting tool is kind of like the Enhanced-Fujita scale for measuring the damage impact of tornados. The new ice index has a scale of 0 for little impact up to 5 for catastrophic damage.

Sperry, who has worked for electric cooperatives for 34 years, has seen his share of terrible ice storms. One major ice storm he remembers created damage that took 21 days to repair.

Sperry says what many people don't understand is the impact of the combination of ice accumulation and

wind speed. Even a lighter coating of ice, when combined with high winds, can cause severe damage to trees and power lines. The aerodynamics of a line will change with ice accumulation, causing lift like an airplane wing. With higher winds the line will oscillate up and down in a whipping motion called galloping. This is normally what causes the worst damage during an ice storm.

The goal is to help utilities and other emergency response agencies predict and prepare for major ice outages. "The more time a utility has to prepare, the more time there is to bring in additional materials and linemen to help restore power as quickly as possible," said Sperry. "I'd love to see a catastrophic 5 be reduced to where the outage time is, say, maybe only a matter of ten days rather than two weeks," Sperry said. ■



Final phase-out of incandescent light bulbs starting

Change is hard. We all still love the warm glow of the old-fashioned glass light bulbs. We hate the increased cost of the new-fangled compact fluorescents (CFL) bulbs and especially the newer light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs. But we also know that change and new innovations also lead to better things. Change is good.

Although the new lighting technology costs more, in the long run



these new bulbs really do pay for themselves in energy savings. Incandescent light bulbs use four times more energy and 90 percent of that energy is wasted as heat. That's why the old Easy-Bake ovens worked. Switching to efficient

lighting is also the easiest way to save about 10 to 15 percent on your home's energy bill. Except for a good sturdy ladder no tools are required.

Adding to the energy efficiency advantage, CFL bulbs can last nine years and LEDs can last up to 23 years. While some of the life expectancy claims may be a little optimistic, they still won't have to be replaced as often.

So like it or not, say goodbye to the 40-watt and 60-watt incandescent bulbs. As of Jan. 1, they can no longer be manufactured based on the phase-in of a 2007 energy efficiency standard. Traditional 75- and 100-watt bulbs were phased out in 2013. ■

Congressman Kinzinger honored for public service

At a meeting in December at the offices of Corn Belt Energy in Bloomington, Congressman Adam Kinzinger (R-Manteno, 16th District) received the 2013 Illinois Electric Cooperatives' Public Service Award. The award was made in recognition of Rep. Kinzinger's dedicated public service to all citizens of the state of Illinois and for outstanding contributions to the rural electrification program.

Rep. Kinzinger has been a supporter of Illinois electric cooperatives and their rural member-owners on a wide variety of issues. Of special significance, the Congressman has been especially supportive on issues related to the

beneficial reuse of coal ash and financing for rural electric cooperatives.

"From addressing issues of importance to co-op member-owners, to meeting with co-op youth when they visit Washington, DC on the annual Youth Tour, Rep. Kinzinger is always accessible and helpful, and he is well deserving of our association's highest award," said Duane Noland, President/CEO of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Rep. Kinzinger's 16th Congressional District includes service territory of Corn Belt Energy, Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative and Rock Energy Cooperative. ■



Representative Adam Kinzinger receives the Illinois Electric Cooperatives' 2013 Public Service Award. Presenting the award are (l-r) Corn Belt Energy President/CEO Don Taylor, Representative Adam Kinzinger, Rae Payne (Chairman of the Corn Belt Energy Board), Board member Albert Hagenbuch, Board member Robert Angus, Board member Jerry Starkey, and Board member Robert Whitwood, Jr.

Illinois reclaims title of top soybean-producing state

Illinois has regained the title of top soybean-producing state for the first time since 2003, according to USDA estimates.

“We’re proud this is happening in the same year we celebrate 100 years of Illinois soybean production and the 50th anniversary of the Illinois Soybean Association (ISA),” says Bill

Raben, soybean farmer from Ridgway, Ill., and ISA chairman. “ISA has set the goal to utilize 600 million bushels of Illinois soybeans annually by 2020, so now that we have reached this important milestone, it’s time to keep the momentum.”

The USDA Crop Production Report estimates Illinois farmers raised 460.6

million bushels of soybeans in 2013 on 9.4 million acres with an average yield of 49 bushels per acre. Iowa ranked second in terms of total production with 415.3 million bushels raised on 9.23 million acres and an average yield of 45 bushels per acre. In the drought year of 2012, USDA estimated Illinois soybean farmers raised 383.99 million bushels. ■

Mortgage help for struggling Illinois homeowners

Governor Pat Quinn launched the Illinois Foreclosure Prevention Network (IFPN) in 2012 to create a one-stop resource where Illinois residents can access the tools they need to avoid foreclosure. The Network coordinates the efforts of many state and non-profit agencies working to connect struggling homeowners with support and brings those services under one umbrella.

IFPN provides homeowners with access to free counseling services, legal advice, mortgage assistance programs,



foreclosure prevention events and tips on how to avoid mortgage fraud. Most importantly, it offers homeowners a safe and trusted source for assistance so they do not fall prey to mortgage rescue scams.

It is important to seek help if you are having trouble paying your mortgage or are behind on your mortgage payments. Go to www.keepyourhomeillinois.org

or call the IFPN hotline at 1-855-KEEP-411. Information about IHDA and its other programs can be found at www.ihda.org ■

Scams keeping co-ops on alert

Scammers continue to target electric cooperative members in several states, using a variety of schemes including one where a man looks like he might work at the co-op. That’s occurring in Paintsville, Ky.-based Big Sandy RECC’s service area, where officials say someone has been approaching members, requesting money under threat of disconnection.

In neighboring Tennessee, scammers posing as co-op employees have been calling both residential and business members, demanding immediate payment to avoid disconnection.

It’s happening in Illinois too. “We

were alerted to the scam by a member who called us and wanted to know if we were actually requesting payment over the phone and if their service would be disconnected,” said Jennifer Skien, Vice President of Member Services, Jo-Carroll Energy. “In this case, the caller had identified himself as Jo-Carroll Energy, left a number he could be reached at, stated the member owed \$500 and would be disconnected the same day if he did not pay.”

Skien advises that anyone who receives a suspicious call should exercise caution and never provide any information. If there’s any question about a phone call from someone

claiming to be with the utility, she offers these tips:

- Never give your account number, credit card number, bank information or other personal information over the phone without verifying the call.
- Get the caller’s name.
- Get the phone number off caller ID.
- Call the police and your co-op.

“By calling the cooperative to report a suspicious call, members can talk to a member service representative who can confirm their bill and let them know if there are any problems with their account,” Skien added. ■



WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

Why do our line personnel work extra shifts and call in for extra help from other co-ops to restore your power as quickly as possible during and after an outage?

Why do we provide the best possible education to our employees?

Why are we so visible and active in the community during and after business hours?

Why do we have a local office?

It's simple. We care about you, and we live and work in this community too. Serving you doesn't stop when the day is over; it stops when the job is done. We're proud to be your Touchstone Energy electric cooperative, and it's our privilege to have you as our member/owner!



Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives

TOGETHER WE SAVE



Where the jobs are

Skilled employees needed for thousands of Illinois jobs

by Edward VanHoose

These days you can't open a newspaper, watch television or turn on your computer without hearing about the downturn in the economy, and how there are no jobs available. It all seems so hopeless. But, it's not true.

In fact, there are plenty of jobs available in the U.S. Unfortunately, there are not enough qualified people to fill them. According to the World Economic Forum, more than 600,000 jobs are currently unfilled in the manufacturing sector alone. This figure seems at odds with the unemployment rates that have become a media mainstay over the past several years.

Sixty-seven percent of respondents in a 2011 manufacturing skills gap study indicated they were experiencing a shortage of qualified workers – with 12 percent reporting severe shortages and 55 percent indicating moderate shortages, according to the Association for Career and Technical Education.

Jim Nelson, Vice President of

External Affairs for the Illinois Manufacturers' Association (www.ima-net.org) says, "There are thousands of jobs in a wide array of options for people looking for a great career. In Illinois, we are looking at replacing 30,000 production workers alone every year until at least 2025, due to the retirements of the baby-boom generation. Nationally, that number skyrockets to over 6,000,000 each year. So, for those who suggest a lack of jobs in the U.S. or Illinois, nothing could be further from the facts. Moreover, manufacturing has career opportunities for those who work best with their hands, and those who prefer working in the design phases. It's truly a melting pot for any person who loves to make things."

With so many people out of work, how can so many jobs be open?

The real problem is a considerable gap between the skills American workers have and the skills they need

to perform in the contemporary industrial workplace.

"Employers face many challenges in finding employees," says Nelson. "Our communities, in general, have to do a better job with every student who struggles with mathematics and science, the so-called STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Production processes today require workers to have good math and computer skills in order to be successful in today's advanced manufacturing environment. Surprisingly, many employers also report serious shortcomings in work ethics among applicants such as arriving on-time, being dressed appropriately for work, working as a member of a team, etc."

These soft skills, such as attendance, are a big problem for time-sensitive work in which manufacturers need to fill orders quickly to stay competitive.

Community college collaboration

In Illinois, a group of community college systems and manufacturers have banded together to create an initiative to help address the problem.

Jean Anne Grunloh, Executive Director of the East Central Illinois Development Corporation says, “The focus of the East Central Illinois (eci) Super Region Collaboration (www.ecidc.com) has been to raise community awareness on the advanced technology career opportunities in manufacturing. Our region provides several technical trades training programs to enter that allow students to advance in those careers.”

The kind of awareness Grunloh speaks about is crucial to changing the perception of just what a manufacturing career entails.

Mike Cline, former Training Manager for Danville-based ThyssenKrupp explains, “ThyssenKrupp is continually challenged in the selection process to employ personnel with the necessary skill sets, experience, or technical education level that is beneficial to succeeding within our highly technical manufacturing process.”

Although there are still a few jobs available that fit the traditional assembly line model, most modern manufacturers now employ advanced machinery requiring a specific skill set.

“We have been incredibly lucky to be a rapidly growing technology firm nestled in the heart of the Midwest,” comments AnnMarie Cross, Human Resources Manager for Watchfire Signs (www.watchfiresigns.com). “Because we are so vertically integrated – from software engineering to PCB manufacturing, from creative arts to accounting – we have a huge range of opportunities available to the next generation of employees. Our surprisingly complex technology means we have a higher than anticipated need for STEM-strong employees, ideally with education and/or experience in fields such as electronics, hardware design, software engineering, IT, manufacturing technology and more.”

Growing our own

As you can see, many of these jobs require more than a high school education. To that end, companies are reaching out to higher education to form partnerships with which to

cultivate their workforce.

Cross says, “It has become ever-increasingly evident that we need to ‘grow our own,’ particularly in areas of engineering and IT. In eight years we have expanded from having two or three interns that are working toward an A.S. in electronics, to our 2013 program, which involved 24 university interns plus not-yet-freshmen. We are proud to boast that 12 percent of our non-union staff began at Watchfire as interns, and that former interns now hold full-time positions in nearly every department of the company.”

“Virtually every job in manufacturing today requires some post-secondary education,” agrees Nelson. “High school diplomas alone just aren’t enough. That’s why the IMA Education Foundation agreed to lead the Manufacturing STEM Learning Exchange in Illinois (www.ilpathways.com). The STEM Learning Exchange is a collaborative effort by manufacturers, educators, community organizations and others to align programs of study between high schools, community colleges and four-year institutions designed to prepare students for careers in manufacturing, and create a pipeline of skilled workers.



Source: Bismarck State College, Bismarck, N.D.



“Many schools already offer classes in machining and welding, for example. What the Learning Exchanges are doing differently is engaging additional skilled occupations such as quality control, mechatronics, robotics, process technology, and teaching kids industry-created, nationally-portable credentials,” continues Nelson. “This approach also encourages students to continue their education at the college level while working. There are more than 450 certifications available in manufacturing today, and virtually every credential is recognized by manufacturers in Illinois.”

The need for qualified individuals is so prevalent, Lake Land College (LLC) entered into a new partnership with North American Lighting (NAL – www.nal.com) to create the NAL Fast-Track Tech Program, an eight-week training course that guarantees employment at NAL upon completion of the program.

“There is a manufacturing boom throughout our region and the college. Together with North American Lighting and area legislators, we developed this program in order to respond to this immediate need quickly and effectively,” explained Jim Hull, Vice President for Academic Services at Lake Land College in Mattoon (www.LakeLandcollege.edu).

The program will provide students with a variety of industrial technology skills including shop safety, applied mathematics, robotics and automation control. Additionally, the 16 credit hours earned upon completion of the program count toward an associate degree from Lake Land College. To that end, NAL will offer educational benefits to employees who choose to complete the associate degree program.

“This is a fantastic opportunity for the right person,” says Steve Duval, Corporate General Manager at NAL. “By successfully completing the program at Lake Land, the student will receive a paid position with NAL plus

an additional nine weeks of training in the facility. Furthermore, they can continue their education with tuition assistance from NAL. In return, these students will not only have a full-time paid position with insurance and retirement benefits, but they will also have a skill they can build upon and use for a lifetime.”

The organizations are grateful to Illinois Congressman John Shimkus for initiating the partnership. “I am very interested in working with community colleges and local industries to find solutions for improving workforce development,” says Shimkus. “This is the key to recruiting, securing and retaining industry in Illinois.”

Co-op commitment to catching your career

This past year, Grunloh led the eci Super Region group to put together a new website, www.catchyourcareer.com in order to help students find information on training programs necessary to get the jobs available. Because the eci group is a volunteer organization, the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) donated the time necessary to build the site.

Duane Noland, CEO of the AIEC, says, “The Illinois electric cooperatives support and understand the need for a strong manufacturing presence in rural Illinois. One of our cooperative principles is commitment to community, so assisting the eci Super Region group in getting the word out about available careers in manufacturing fits perfectly within our mission.”

Nelson agrees, “The eci Super Region is making significant contributions by ensuring manufacturing continues in its role of driving the local economy. Through collaboration and cooperation, the region as a whole will benefit. Efforts to align programs of study, for both soft and hard skills, with the needs of manufacturers will help assure a strong local economy.”

The catchyourcareer.com website

allows students and parents to collaborate with educators and manufacturers in order to find training programs that fit particular industries. By visiting the site, you can learn specifically what training program you need, and also where that program is located. Just click the button that reads, “Find a Training Program” and you can either search for something specific or browse through the entire list.

Grunloh, and the rest of the eci Super Region group, have plans to continue development of the site as well.

“Once we secure additional funding, partners with the eci Super Region have identified specific goals to enhance capabilities of the site and make it interactive as well as informative. One key goal includes enabling students or adults to voluntarily create a portfolio of accredited skills, certificates and degrees related to advanced technology. This will establish a platform where area employers can search for highly skilled employees,” says Grunloh.

Such a portfolio could prove invaluable to job seekers looking to get their information to a wide range of potential employers. Another goal of the site is to allow manufacturers to post specific openings directly to a database where aspiring workers can match their skill set against the opportunities listed.

Show me the money

So, what can someone pursuing an advanced manufacturing career expect to earn?

Upon completion of the LLC program, students will enter into a

nine-week paid training program at NAL. Entry-level employees earn between \$16-18 an hour, plus benefits, depending on skill level. NAL currently has technician positions available at all three Illinois manufacturing



facilities in Flora, Salem and Paris.

According to Nelson, “In 2011 the Federal Commerce Department surveyed American manufacturing workers and found average earnings of \$77,060 annually, including pay and benefits. The average worker in all industries earned \$60,168. And earnings can easily climb into six-figures for those who volunteer for overtime. These are great middle-class jobs that facilitate home ownership, a solid retirement and the ability to attend college (and send one’s children to college) while having a good career.”

Illinois is home to 20,000 manufacturers who employ nearly 600,000 people and generate more than 13.5 percent of the GDP in Illinois. A technology savvy workforce will enable the Illinois economy to compete and prosper on a global stage where the skills, knowledge, and ability of the workforce will distinguish the economic leaders from those that follow.

Tips on surviving power outages

Outages are inevitable but you can learn how to live through them

Power outages are at the very least inconvenient disruptions to our lives. While your electric co-op does everything it can to reduce the possibility of an outage to your home or business, they do occur. This time of year we worry about ice and snow storm outages, but there are a variety of reasons outages can occur, including:

- Wind breaking tree limbs, causing them to come into contact power lines.
- Ice and snow building up on lines causing them to fail.
- Vehicles crashing into poles bringing the lines down.
- Contractors digging into underground lines.
- Animals such as squirrels and birds causing short circuits while climbing poles, transformers and fuses.
- Planned outages taking place for equipment maintenance and upgrades.

Those are just some of the more common reasons for power outages. Whatever the reason, rest assured your electric cooperative is working as fast as it can to get your power restored quickly and safely. While each electric cooperative has its own system for restoring power during an outage, many of the following steps will be similar at any utility.

The number one focus of your electric cooperative will always be public safety. This means crews will clear lines and equipment that could pose safety hazards to the public. Next, it will turn its attention to power generation facilities that generate the actual electricity that powers your home or business. After that comes transmission line repair. Transmission lines carry very high voltages to substations that transform energy into the electricity that is usable in homes and businesses. The substation equipment

will be next on the repair list. From there, come feeder lines that can serve one to 3,000 customers, tap lines that provide power to 20 to 30 homes or businesses, and then connections to individual customers.

During this process, the electric cooperative will generally first make repairs to facilities that are critical to public health and safety—such as hospitals, police and fire stations, water treatment plants and communication systems. It will then center its efforts on repairs that will get power restored to the largest number of customers. Many outages, like those caused by an accident, are relatively short. However, others like those caused by a tornado or hurricane, can be much longer. How long it takes to get your power restored depends on the extent of the storm's destruction, the number of outages, and when it becomes safe for cooperative personnel to get to the damaged areas.

Whether long or short, it pays to know what to do when the power goes out so you can keep your family safe. Safe Electricity suggests you:

- Call your electric cooperative immediately to report the outage, especially if you are aware of a downed power line.
- Use safe alternative food preparations. A barbecue grill is an excellent way to prepare food. Always grill outside.
- Check on friends and relatives—especially children, seniors, and those with medical conditions or disabilities.
- Have a storm kit (with items like flashlights, battery-operated radio, and first-aid supplies) prepared for use during power outages. Keep the kit in a cool, dry place and make sure all members of the family know where it is. Make sure your first-aid

supplies include scissors, tweezers, safety pins, aspirin, eyewash and rubbing alcohol or hydrogen peroxide.

- Turn off electrical appliances and unplug major electronics, including computers and televisions. Power sometimes comes back in surges, which can damage electronics. Your circuits could overload when power returns if all your electronics are still plugged in and on. Leave one light on to indicate that power has been restored. Wait a few minutes and then turn on other appliances and equipment—one at a time.
- If you use a standby generator that is wired directly into your home's electrical system, you must operate it with a transfer safety switch. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the power lines or what is known as backfeed. Backfeed creates a danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power. A safety transfer switch is not needed only if appliances are plugged directly into the generator outlets.
- Generators should only be run outdoors with adequate ventilation to protect occupants from carbon monoxide poisoning.
- When outside, treat ALL downed and hanging lines as if they are energized electric lines. Stay away and warn others to stay away.

To find out more about keeping your family safe from electrical hazards, go to SafeElectricity.org. ■

Molly Hall is Director of Safe Electricity. E-mail molly-hall@SafeElectricity.org. Safe Electricity is a public awareness program of the Energy Education Council. www.EnergyEdCouncil.org



FREE Home Security System

With \$99.00 Customer Installation Charge and purchase of alarm monitoring services. See Important Terms and Conditions to this offer below

\$850 Value



(courtesy of Find Home Security, certain conditions apply)



Find Home Security
ADT Authorized Company

FREE Act Now & Receive

Wireless Remote Control



\$199 Value

With \$99.00 Customer Installation Charge and purchase of alarm monitoring services. See Important Terms and Conditions to this offer below

FREE Act Now & Receive

Home Security System



\$850 Value

With \$99.00 Customer Installation Charge and purchase of alarm monitoring services. See Important Terms and Conditions to this offer below

FREE Act Now & Receive

6 Window or Door Sensors



With \$99.00 Customer Installation Charge and purchase of alarm monitoring services. See Important Terms and Conditions to this offer below

Ask about Same Day Installation

SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

CALL TODAY 1-855-958-0105
www.FindHomeSecurity.com

WE ARE OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK • 8 AM – MIDNIGHT EST • SUNDAY 9 AM – MIDNIGHT EST • OFFER ONLY GOOD FOR NEW ADT® MONITORED CUSTOMERS.

All calls with Find Home Security are monitored and recorded for quality assurance and training purposes. \$99.00 Customer Installation Charge. 36-Month Monitoring Agreement required at \$36.99 per month (\$1,331.64). Form of payment must be by credit card or electronic charge to your checking or savings account. Offer applies to homeowners only. Local permit fees may be required. Satisfactory credit history required. Certain restrictions may apply. Offer valid for new ADT Authorized Dealer customers only and not on purchases from ADT LLC. Other rate plans available. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Visa® gift card must be requested through your Representative at time of purchase. \$100 Visa® gift card requires activation and \$2.95 shipping and handling fee. You will receive a claim voucher within 3-4 weeks and the voucher must be returned within 30 days. Your Visa® gift card will arrive in approximately 6-8 weeks. Find Home Security charges a one-time \$49.95 non-refundable processing fee. Indiana C.P.D. Reg. No. T.S. R1903.

The best way to water orchids

Using the ice cube watering method or the water faucet

Orchids are one of those fascinating plants that impress just about everyone. Production costs and bio-technology have enabled the \$100 plant to be yours at the bargain price of less than \$20.

Granted, you probably aren't getting the *Cattleya* or *Papheopedilum* orchid. What you probably are buying, though, are the *Phalaenopsis* or *Dendrobium*, two of the easiest to grow plants. Well, at least in mass production.

What's unique, and somewhat baffling, is the perpetuation of how to care for these exotic plants — namely, the ice cube watering method.

My cousin in rural Illinois asked me this question late last year. Of course, her plant seems to be doing okay. But is it the best method?

The laziness in me said, "Hey, it's water and it slowly waters the plants. Great."

The horticulturist on the other shoulder shouted, "What? Are you crazy?" He won.

Searching the Internet, there are various articles and accolades using ice cubes to water orchids. Since overwatering is one of the biggest killers of orchids, using two or three ice cubes seems, on the surface, a great way to limit overwatering.

But, if that truly was the case, we'd find all sorts of these tropical orchids



growing in Illinois woods and prairies. We don't.

Greenhouse production of orchids usually substitutes peat moss for bark mulch as a growing medium. It's lighter, cheaper, and in the short term, holds a bit more water so production costs can be lowered.

But tropical orchids don't grow in peat moss, and when the moss does dry out, so does the orchid. Of course, bark mulch dries out as well. But if an orchid gets too much water, it will rot.

Check your plant — are there holes in the pot? If not, toss the pot and repot the orchid with bark mulch in a pot with at least one drainage hole.

Most orchids prefer high humidity more than water. Saturated bark mulch is able to provide humidity levels better than peat moss. And you get better bark saturation with a good drink of room temperature water coming out of the kitchen faucet.

Some orchids do appreciate the occasional cold temperature to start flower buds. That's why some growers keep their plants outside as long as possible in the fall before bringing them indoors.

And it's possible that some orchids may initiate blooms by ice cubes, but in the long run, constant blooming is bad for the orchids.

Ultimately it comes down to these two statements.

First, if it has worked for you so far, pat yourself on the back and

keep watering your orchid in such a fashion and keep your fingers crossed.

Second, remember the best way to achieve the best growth off of any plant is to duplicate what nature does. The kitchen faucet probably comes the closest at mimicking nature. You can't go wrong. ■

David Robson is Extension Specialist, Pesticide Safety for the University of Illinois. drobson@illinois.edu



N O M I N A T E A F A T H E R F O R

Illinois
Country Living 

Father of the Year

2014

While every father is special, some are just extraordinary in their willingness to help their families and others. If your dad or another man in your community is deserving of this honor, nominate him. Tell us in 500 words about that special dad, what he does and why he deserves to win the title.

Just go to our website at www.icl.coop to fill out an entry and email your essay to vcheatham@aiec.coop. Be sure to include the information from the form below. Or, complete the following form and send it along with your essay.

Rules: The contest is open to any father served by an Illinois electric cooperative. No purchase is necessary. The winner will be selected by committee, and featured in the June or July edition of Illinois Country Living magazine.

All nomination letters submitted will be published on Illinois Country Living's Web site at www.icl.coop.



2012 recipient Jack Graves

DAD

What will the Illinois
Country Father of the Year win?

\$100 gift certificate
and other prizes

His Name			
Address	City	State	Zip
In which Illinois electric cooperative territory he resides			
Organizations to which he belongs			
Person nominating him			
Relationship to the nominee			
Your phone number with area code			
Nominee's phone number with area code (we would contact him only if he wins)			

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT:
Entries must be emailed or postmarked by April 1, 2014

Valerie Cheatham, Illinois Country Living • P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708-3787 • vcheatham@aiec.coop

Energy efficiency is a lot of hot air

Blower door energy audit reveals hidden air infiltration

Some things never change, like the laws of nature on Earth. Heat always moves to cold on our planet. So, during winter months, the nice warm heat within your house is always moving to the colder outdoor climate. Before long, spring and summer will return and the heat provided from the sun will move into your air-conditioned home.

Heat is always on the move and will try to relocate anytime there is a temperature or pressure difference between the inside and outside of your home. It really is that simple. If we want our homes to be more energy efficient, we determine where the heat is moving and then take steps to slow and retard the movement.

I learned many years ago that heat would move much faster through an opening. If you can see light around your front door, that's a perfect example. Air infiltration is unwanted or unmanaged air movement between inside and outside a building. Air infiltration is a major problem in many homes that leads to uncomfortable homes and high utility bills.

I remember the day when I learned about the magnitude of air infiltration on the average house. It was the same day that I first witnessed a blower door test on a two-year old house in Cabot, Ark. This was early in my energy efficiency career and I was happy to attend the energy audit. About eight people were in attendance, including two from the



company that would test the house. We were told the young family that had originally purchased the house had moved out because of very high utility bills and that the baby's bedroom had been extremely cold.

After introductions, we made a visual inspection of the house and it appeared there were no problems whatsoever. The blower door unit

was then installed in the front door opening. We were told the blower door could often find problems that could not be found visually. It was then explained to us that the fan in the blower door would be used to suck air out of the house until the house reached a predetermined reading on one of the gauges. That reading could then be used to calculate the amount of air infiltration in the house.

As the equipment was ramping up, the energy auditor said, "Remember that the amount of inside air going out through the fan equals the amount of outside air coming into the house from some source."

As the fan reached the proper negative pressure level we all felt a tremendous amount of air rushing toward the fan. We also heard a very unusual loud clicking sound coming from another room, and the technician immediately turned off the fan. The clicking stopped, and he then walked down the hall to see what might be making the sound. He said to turn the fan on low – no clicking. He said "faster" and a slow click

started. He said to turn the fan to high and there was the loud clicking we had heard before. He then called us to follow him.

I shall never forget what we saw when we entered the bedroom. The carpet at the exterior corner of the bedroom was flopping up and down. Apparently someone did not order enough concrete to finish the slab in the corner.

The blower door test revealed why the baby's room had been cold.

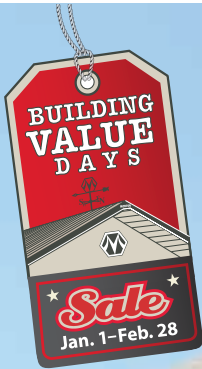
Also, while using the blower door, we discovered major air infiltration in the utility closet. The plenum from the heating system was installed through the ceiling and connected to the ductwork in the attic. The problem was they did not install a ceiling around the plenum. So, the room was wide open to the attic. We also found air infiltration in many other locations.

Picture a 3-foot by 3-foot window being open at all times. That was the calculated amount of leakage in just one home! Just imagine how much money has been saved, and how much more comfortable the house has been because it was tested and improvements were made 25 years ago.

In our seminars I often say the three biggest causes of energy problems in the average house are air infiltration, air infiltration and air infiltration. If your house is uncomfortable and your utility bills are above average, call your electric co-op about an energy audit. ■

Doug Rye can be heard on several different Illinois radio stations. You can go to Doug Rye's Web site at www.dougrye.com, e-mail him at info@philliprye.com, or call 501-653-7931.





BIGGEST

Sales Event of the Year



Garages | Farm Buildings | Equestrian | Commercial | Homes



MORTON BUILDINGS®

800-447-7436 • mortonbuildings.com



Buy now and save! Discount pricing runs January 1st through the end of February so act fast for savings and discover the advantages of owning a Morton building. Call or visit us online for more information.

Certain restrictions apply. © 2014 Morton Buildings, Inc. A listing of GC licenses available at mortonbuildings.com/licenses. Ref Code 607

Fast-growing Trees

for windbreak, screen & shade

Call toll-free 888-749-0799

For FREE color brochure or to place an order

ADVANCED TREE TECHNOLOGY
12818 Edgerton Rd. New Haven, IN 46774 • www.advancedtree.com

Call Toll Free **MAPBC** Other Sizes Available

MID-AMERICA Pole Barn Co.

30 x 50 x 10 Galvalume

\$8,400.00

Price includes material, delivery, construction, factory trusses, screws.

Open M - F • 8 to 5
(866) 456.0959

Price is subject to change without notice.

Safety never felt so good™



A Safe Step Walk-In Tub offers independence to those seeking a safe and easy way to bathe right in the convenience and comfort of their own home.

- ✓ Made in America, with more standard features than any other tub
- ✓ Dual hydro-massage therapy system- 10 water and 16 air bubble jets, offering life-changing benefits
- ✓ Built-in support bar and the industry's leading low step-in
- ✓ The highest quality tub complete with a lifetime warranty
- ✓ Top-of-the-line installation and service included

You won't find a better walk-in tub, with all these features and more, included with a lifetime warranty at a low affordable price. **Call now!**



Safe Step Tubs have received the Ease-of-Use Commendation from the Arthritis Foundation



Financing available with approved credit



\$750 OFF
when you mention this ad
for a limited time only
Call Toll-Free 1-800-366-3315

For your FREE information kit and DVD, and our Senior Discounts,
Call Today Toll-Free **1-800-366-3315**
www.MySafeStep.com

Illinois Country Living

Go to our website
for past issues
of Illinois Country Living

www.icl.coop

WARM FRIENDLY FLOORS



SANGAMON RADIANT

uponor aqua pex tubing products for agricultural, commercial shop floors and homes

(217)971-8592 • FAX (217)483-7973 • Evening (217)483-3223
John D. McMillan - Owner

DIMENSION BUILDINGS

Best Buildings at the Best Price

For a Complete 30x50 Deluxe Pole Barn Package only **\$3,650**

CALL (618) 997-9568

www.dimensionbldgs.com

All Sizes Available Marion, IL

LOWEST COST Term Life Insurance

Issue ages through 90

AGE	\$100,000	\$250,000
45	12.78	22.75
55	16.19	31.28
65	31.06	68.47

Rates figured on monthly rates for female non-smokers only.

BRANDON RAMLET
(888) 250-5054

TALIC FORM NO. 1-32297-108

1-800-570-9656
BI-RITE
ECONOMY BUILDINGS

800.570.9656

- Functional - Durable - Economical -



30'X72'X15'
Storage Shed
(4)18' Open Bays

←
\$12,495
Call Today!

30'X81'X12'

Entry Door
and 15x12
Sliding Door

→
\$13,995



www.bi-ritebuildings.com



6 MONTH HANDS-ON TRIAL



REMOTE CONTROL

OPTIONAL DRAG SCREEN



Turn a rough driveway into a SMOOTH RIDE.



The DR® POWER GRADER tows behind your ATV or lawn tractor.

Finally, an easy way to do it yourself.

- RESURFACE YOUR DRIVEWAY without bringing in new material.
- MINING GRADE CARBIDE-TIPPED TEETH shave down bumps, washboard and other high spots.
- REAR LEVELING BLADE with patented geometry, fills in potholes, ruts, and wash-outs with loosened material.
- POWERED ACTUATOR raises and lowers the scarifying teeth to suit the conditions at hand.



Call for a FREE DVD and Catalog!

TOLL FREE **888-212-0576**

DRpowergrader.com

0% MONTHLY INTEREST
36 MONTHS

*FOR DETAILS PLEASE CALL OR VISIT ONLINE. LIMITED TIME OFFER.

8193DX ©2014



protect what matters

looks like
mother nature
finally met her match.

30x40 starting at \$7,914



CALL NOW FOR CURRENT SPECIALS
800-825-0316



Visit WorldwideSteelBuildings.com for more information.



**EVERY
AMERICAN
DESERVES
AFFORDABLE
POWER**

TELL THE GOVERNMENT:

**DON'T RAISE THE COST
OF OUR ELECTRICITY**

VISIT ACTION.COOP

Join America's electric cooperatives in demanding the Environmental Protection Agency find a common-sense solution for curbing greenhouse gas emissions. Learn more about this issue, and how you can help, at action.coop.



Illinois Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperatives

The power of human connections
www.aiec.coop



Cooking



Pancit (noodles)

Pancit (noodles) (above)

- 1 lb. Pancit bihon (rice noodles), soaked
- 1/2 lb. pork, cut into small thin slices
- 1/2 lb. chicken, cooked, deboned and cut into thin slices
- 1 T. oil
- 1/8 lb. peapods or snow peas
- 1 c. carrots, thinly sliced

- 1/2 sm. head cabbage, chopped
- 1 c. celery leaves, chopped finely
- 1 med. onion, chopped
- 1/2 T. garlic, minced
- 1 chicken bouillon cube
- 5 T. soy sauce
- 3 to 4 c. water

In a large pot, saute' the garlic and onion in oil. Add the pork and chicken; then let cook for 2 minutes. Add the bouillon cube and water; simmer for 15 minutes. Put in the carrots, peapods, cabbage and celery leaves and simmer for a few minutes. Remove all the ingredients from the pot except for the liquid; set them aside. In the pot with the liquid in it, add the soy sauce and mix well. Add the rice noodles (make sure you have first soaked in water for about 10 minutes). Mix well. Cook until liquid evaporates completely. Add the vegetable and meat mixture and simmer for a minute or two.



Rolo Cake Mix Bars

Rolo Cake Mix Bars (left)

- 1 box yellow or white cake mix
- 1 - 5 oz. can evaporated milk
- 1/4 c. melted butter
- 40 Rolo candies, cut in half

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray 9x13" pan with cooking spray. Beat cake mix, evaporated milk and butter until combined. Will be thick and sticky. Divide batter in half. Press half of batter in the bottom of the pan. Bake 8 minutes. Remove from oven, place Rolo candies caramel side down on top. Drop remaining batter on top of Rolos in teaspoon size amounts. Bake 20 minutes or until top begins to golden. Cool before cutting.

Dallas City Elementary PTO Cookbook

Who: Dallas City Elementary PTO

Cost: \$13 with shipping

Details: soft-backed, comb bound

Pages of recipes: 158

Send checks to: Dallas City PTO, 921 Creamery Hill Rd., Dallas City, IL 62330 or call 217-852-3201

Mama's Coleslaw

- 1 sm. head cabbage, shredded
- 2 c. broccoli, chopped
- 2 c. cauliflower florets, chopped
- 2 c. carrots, thinly sliced
- 2 c. celery, thinly sliced
- 2 c. Italian parsley or cilantro, chopped
- 1 c. mayonnaise
- 3/4 c. sugar
- 1/4 c. vinegar

Mix together vegetables in large bowl. Combine mayonnaise, sugar and vinegar, mix with vegetables and chill.

Cake Batter Pancakes

- 1 c. original Bisquick mix
- 1 c. Betty Crocker Super Moist yellow cake mix
- 3 T. candy sprinkles
- 1 c. milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 eggs

Glaze:

- 1 c. powdered sugar
- 1 1/2 tsp. milk
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla
- Additional candy sprinkles

Heat griddle or skillet over medium-high heat; grease with cooking spray. In a medium bowl, stir together pancake ingredients until blended. Pour slightly less than 1/4 c. onto griddle for each pancake. Cook until edges are dry. Turn, cook until pancakes are golden brown. In small bowl, beat powdered sugar, milk and 1/2 tsp. vanilla with whisk until smooth. Top each serving with glaze and additional candy sprinkles.

Editor's note: The color comes off the sprinkles when you add the liquid, you might want to wait and sprinkle them onto each pancake after pouring the batter onto the griddle. Would make a special breakfast for your children or grandchildren.

Reply Online

Tried a recipe?
Tell us what you think at icl.coop
Click on **Finest Cooking**



Chocolate Cherry Dump Cake

Chocolate Cherry Dump Cake (above)

- 2 – 21 oz. cans cherry pie filling
- 1 box chocolate cake mix
- 2 sticks butter, sliced into pieces
- 1 – 2.25 oz. bag pecans, chopped
- 1/8 c. sugar

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a 9x13" pan, dump pie filling into bottom of the pan. Sprinkle cake mix evenly on top of filling. Distribute the butter on top of the cake mix. Spread the pecans evenly over the butter and cake mix. Finally, sprinkle the sugar over all. Bake for 30 to 40 minutes and serve warm.

Broccoli Squares (below)

- 1 – 7.5 oz. pkg. corn muffin mix
- 1 – 10 oz. pkg. frozen chopped broccoli, cooked and drained
- 1/2 c. butter, melted
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 1 lg. onion, finely chopped
- 1 1/2 c. cheddar cheese, shredded

Combine all ingredients and mix thoroughly; spread in greased 9x13x2" baking dish. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes. Yield: 24 squares.

Visit www.icl.coop to see an archive of past Illinois Country Living recipes.



Broccoli Squares

American Legion Auxiliary Cookbook

Who: Metropolis American Legion Auxiliary

Cost: \$15 includes shipping

Details: soft-backed, spiral bound

Pages of recipes: 131

Send checks to: Peggy Mitchell, American Legion Auxiliary, 321 Market St., Metropolis, IL 62960 or call 618-524-2043

Shepherd's Pie

- 1 1/2 lb. lean ground beef
- 1/2 c. onion, chopped
- 1 tsp. garlic
- 1 env. Au jus beef gravy mix, prepared as directed with half the water
- 3 c. mashed potatoes, mash with 1/2 c. butter, 1/2 c. sour cream
- 1 1/2 c. cheddar cheese, shredded

Saute' beef, onion, garlic, salt and pepper; break meat in small pieces. Drain and add 3/4 c. gravy to meat. In 2 to 3 quart casserole; spread meat evenly; cover meat with prepared mashed potatoes; cover potatoes with cheese. Bake at 375 degrees for 1 hour.



Beer Bread

Beer Bread (above)

- 5 T. sugar
- 3 c. self-rising flour
- 1 – 12 oz. can beer
- 1 stick butter

Mix first three ingredients and put in a greased loaf pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes. Melt butter and pour over bread. Bake at 375 degrees for 15 minutes longer.

Recipes prepared, tasted and photographed by Valerie Cheatham. For more recipes and photos go to www.icl.coop. Questions? Email recipes@aiec.coop.



Ask Ed

Q Dick from Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. writes to ask:

My wife and I follow your articles and would appreciate your advice on which desktop operating system might be best for us.

Currently, we have Windows XP and an old Dell computer. We have just learned that our bank will soon stop supporting any operating system less than Windows 7, so we will be replacing our old computer. Our computer is used to pay bills, transfer funds between accounts, receive e-statements, e-mail a lot (often with attachments) and for writing letters for mailing.

It's important to my wife and I that Windows 8.1 not be too complicated to use. We have heard that Windows 8 requires relearning the computer system all over again because it is so different from Windows XP and 7. Would your recommendation be that we go with Windows 8.1 to begin with?

A Thank you for the e-mail. I always enjoy hearing from readers.

Let me tell you, your bank is absolutely doing the right thing now when it comes to ending support for computers running operating systems older than Windows 7. In fact, Microsoft has announced plans to discontinue support for Windows XP in April. So, that means no more security updates, which likely means repercussions for those who don't switch.

Of course, as you point out, you now have a decision to make: Windows 7 or 8? I'll be up front about it and just tell you, I prefer Windows 8. And here's why:

1. It's faster. I've been using Windows 8 since it was released, and I can tell you, the boot up time is much faster. And, it's not just boot up times. It runs the applications I use daily much faster as well. As I'm writing this article, I decided to do a test and booted up a Windows 7 machine I have, while simultaneously booting up a Windows 8 computer. Windows 8 was twice as fast! So, if you're looking for a speed boost, then Windows 8 definitely wins.
2. It's more secure. Don't get me wrong; I will never say there is any such thing as a "totally secure" operating system. But, Microsoft has done a good job with Windows 8. It has built-in antivirus and for the first time in a long while, Internet Explorer actually did a good job with security as well. In a test by NSS Labs, Internet

Explorer 10 browser detected and blocked over 99 percent of malicious downloads. That's a pretty outstanding benchmark.

3. Touch! If you are considering a new computer, consider getting a hybrid/convertible PC. Think of them as laptops that can also be tablets. Windows 8 excels in the touchscreen world. I like the ability to switch back and forth between tablet mode and desktop mode. When you first purchase your computer, it's going to start in a tile-based interface. While that interface does work with a keyboard and mouse, it's optimized for use with touch-enabled screens. Personally, I use the desktop mode when I want to use a keyboard and mouse. When I'm using the touchscreen though, the tiles are much preferable.

Of course, I realize you have some misgivings about having to learn a new operating system. And, those misgivings aren't unfounded. But keep in mind, there is a button on the tile menu that says "Desktop," and that button will take you back to at least a somewhat familiar territory.

Next month, I'll tell you about a few tools to make Windows 8 even more friendly!

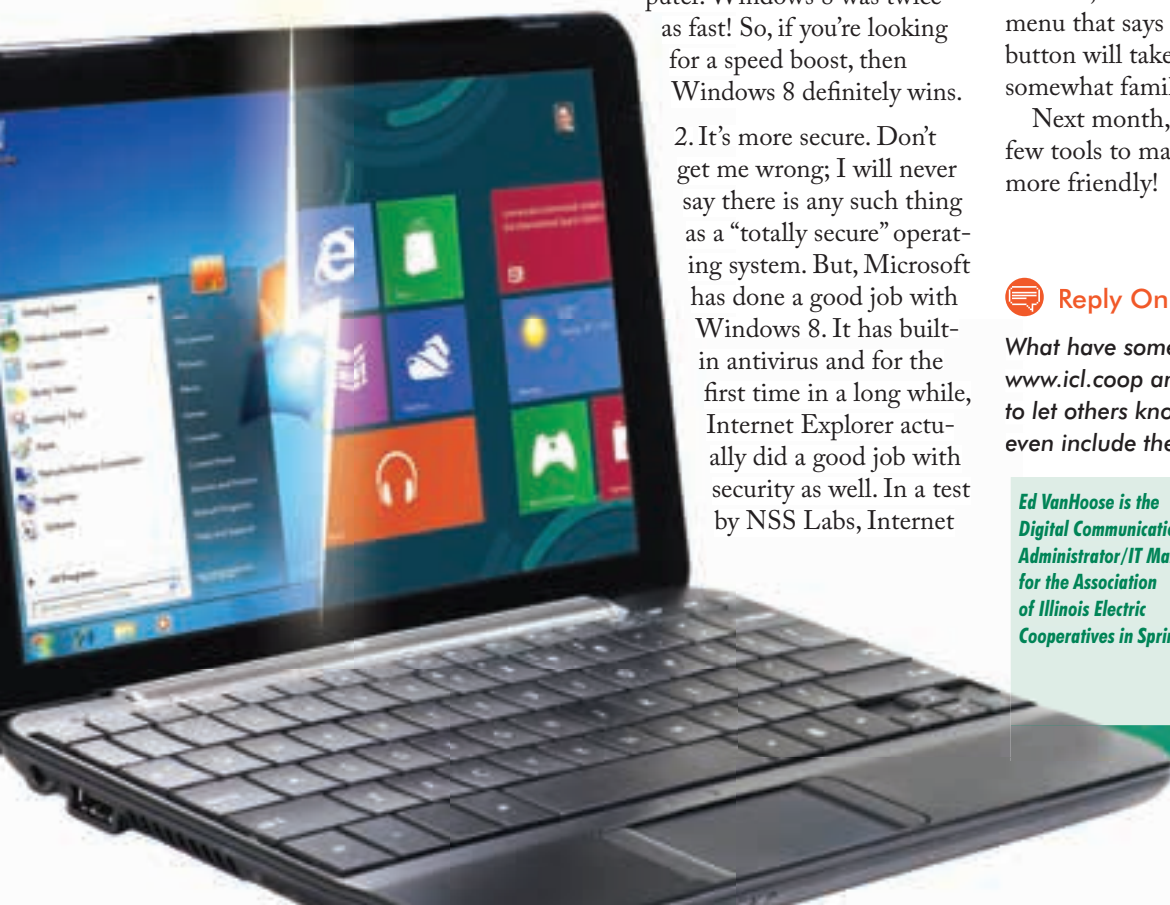
Reply Online

What have some of you done? Visit www.icl.coop and click on Powered Up to let others know. If we get enough, I'll even include them in a future column.

Ed VanHoose is the Digital Communications Administrator/IT Manager for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in Springfield.



evanhoose@aiec.coop



ATV repair, snowplow sale, tires, batteries, filters, winches, complete repair, free advice. Charlie's Cycle Supply. West Jersey, IL 309-995-3319.

For sale: 41 acres, Pope County Shawnee National Forest. Great deer hunting. Secluded, wooded & beautiful. \$3,000/acre. 618-252-3943.

27 acres bordering Shawnee National Forest. Pope County. Nice mobile home. Good road and municipal water. Nice mix of fenced pasture and woods. \$129,000.00. 217-690-1163. RLLAND.com

Budget Moving help, serving entire Illinois. Call today 877-773-0632. www.BudgetMovinghelp.com.

First Street Restaurant Equipment used slicers, tenderizers, grinders, meatsaws, ss sinks, tables. New and used cooking equipment, pottery wheels and kilns. 2615 So. First, Springfield, 217-522-3934, 217-971-8592.

Wanted to buy: Standing timber. All species. Pay top price. Clear or select cut. Call 815-434-4141.

Wanted to buy: Standing timber, most species. Pay top prices. Call 217-285-2760.

Authorized Rainbow distributor. Repairs, supplies and service. Living air purifiers. L&L Distributing, 116 S. VanBuren St., Newton, IL 62448. 618-783-3755.

Open pollinated seed corn. Outproduces hybrids for silage. Leafy, sweet stalks for grazing. Highly nutritious grain. \$65/Bu. 217-857-3377.

Insulation. 4x8 sheets, foil-backed foam. Also rolls of foil-bubble pak-insulation. All factory seconds. www.nichols5.com. Contact Ken Nichols, 800-424-1256.

Central/ Southern Illinois Properties Wanted: Hobby Horse or Mini Farms, Land, Trailer Parks, Victorian & Country Homes, Estates, Log or Lake Houses. We have the #1 Premier Marketing Program designed specifically for these properties! More buyers see our specialty ads! 600% more visit our listings! Buyers easily find and prefer to use our #1 dedicated country website www.FarmAndLakeHouses.com. Our listings are direct marketed to over 45,000 people alone through our Real Estate Booths at Ag, Sport, Boat & Outdoor Shows in Chicagoland, Joliet, Tinley Park, Springfield, Bloomington, Gordyville, Peoria & Yorkville. 20 years of experience-selling full time, 364 days a year! Call Farm and Lake Houses Real Estate & Broker Jerry Grodesky (217) 386-4220.

Cabins in Shawnee Forest of Southern Illinois. Five cabins of all sizes with all amenities. Near Garden of the Gods, Rim Rock Hiking area, Pounds Hollow Lake, Cave in Rock State Park and much more. Pet friendly. Excellent reviews. Check www.rimrocksdogwoodcabins for availability. 618-264-6036.

Lake Weed & Algae Control. Turn ponds into swimming pools, all natural, proven and guaranteed. The Pond King. 309-826-8444.

Farm Windmills. Traditional, old fashioned, water-pumping. All sizes rebuilt mills available. Specialize in large mills for pond filling and pond aeration. Statewide service & installations. USA parts. Paulswindmillservice.com. 217-897-6699.

Used rental work clothes - pants \$4.99, shirts \$3.99, Jackets \$10.95. Call 1-800-233-1853 or order online www.usedworkclothing.com.

Stay and Play in Southern Illinois' Hardin County. Shawnee Forest, Ohio River, Garden of the Gods, Cave-in-Rock. www.hardincountyil.org. Illinois Mile After Magnificent Mile. 618-287-4333.

Earn \$2,000 or more a month working from home. Find out how you can change your life. Call Now! 866-274-0657.

Do Medicare Supplement insurance premiums have you stressed? Compare these rates for most Illinois Zip Codes. Plan F - NT Age 65 - Female \$106.90 - Male \$122.87 Age 80 - F \$163.60 - M \$188.26. Call John Dryden 618-783-4600.

Wanted to buy: Standing timber. All species, except pine. Southern Illinois Area. 618-893-4223.

How to place an ad:

- 1) Type or print ad neatly.
- 2) Count words. Cost is \$30 for up to the first 20 words. \$1.50 each additional word. Ads with insufficient funds will not be printed.
- 3) **Prepayment is required. Include check or money order with ad for amount due.** Also include address label from Illinois Country Living or other proof of Illinois electric cooperative membership. Only members of Illinois electric cooperatives may place Marketplace ads.
- 4) Mail to: Illinois Marketplace, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708, by deadline.

Deadlines: April issue – February 20;
May issue – March 20.

We reserve the right to reject any advertisement. Ads postmarked after the deadline will be placed in the next available issue.

Clogged, Backed—up Septic System...Can anything Restore It?

DEAR DARRYL: My home is about 10 years old, and so is my septic system. I have always taken pride in keeping my home and property in top shape. In fact, my neighbors and I are always kidding each other about who keeps their home and yard nicest. Lately, however, I have had a horrible smell in my yard, and also in one of my bathrooms, coming from the shower drain. My grass is muddy and all the drains in my home are very slow.



My wife is on my back to make the bathroom stop smelling and as you can imagine, my neighbors are having a field day, kidding me about the mud pit and sewage stench in my yard. It's humiliating. I called a plumber buddy of mine, who recommended pumping (and maybe even replacing) my septic system. But at the potential cost of thousands of dollars, I hate to explore that option.

I tried the store bought, so called, Septic treatments out there, and they did Nothing to clear up my problem. Is there anything on the market I can pour or flush into my system that will restore it to normal, and keep it maintained?

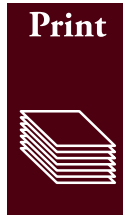
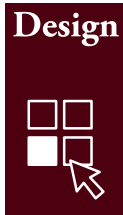
Clogged and Smelly – Joliet, IL

DEAR CLOGGED AND SMELLY: As a reader of my column, I am sure you are aware that I have a great deal of experience in this particular field. You will be glad to know that there IS a septic solution that will solve your back-up and effectively restore your entire system from interior piping throughout the septic system and even unclog the drain field as well. **SeptiCleanse® Shock and Maintenance Programs** deliver your system the fast active bacteria and enzymes needed to liquefy solid waste and free the clogs causing your back-up.

This fast-acting bacteria multiplies within minutes of application and is specifically designed to withstand many of today's anti-bacterial cleaners, soaps and detergents. It comes in dissolvable plastic packs, that you just flush down your toilets. It's so cool. Plus, they actually Guarantee that it restores ANY system, no matter how bad the problem is.

SeptiCleanse® Shock and Maintenance Programs are designed to work on any septic system regardless of design or age. From modern day systems to sand mounds, and systems installed generations ago, I have personally seen SeptiCleanse unclog and restore these systems in a matter of weeks. I highly recommend that you try it before spending any money on repairs. SeptiCleanse products are available online at www.septicleanse.com or you can order or learn more by calling toll free at 1-888-899-8345. If you use the promo code "ILS1", you can get a free shock treatment, added to your order, which normally costs \$169. So, make sure you use that code when you call or buy online.

From Concept to Delivery!



Cooperative Design & Print has faithfully served cooperatives and other businesses for more than 40 years as part of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. We're proud to continue in that tradition, providing for your business needs from concept to delivery!

For more information or to request a bid, please contact:

Connie Newenham, *Manager*
217-241-7943 • cnewenham@aiec.coop

Chris Reynolds, *Coordinator of Web Services/Graphic Designer*
217-241-7948 • creynolds@aiec.coop

Our team of editors and graphic designers can help bring your ideas to life.

Web sites | Signage | Newsletters | Stationery | Annual Reports | Brochures

We deliver on our promises, and also your materials – even to the post office, if you like. Yes, we can prepare, print and deliver your mailing for you!

Our pressmen and silkscreener take pride in ensuring that you'll be pleased with your finished product.

Listen to your heart

February is American Heart Month

By Valerie Cheatham

Hear disease is the No. 1 killer of women – killing more than all forms of cancer combined. The American Heart Association (AHA) encourages all women to live a healthy lifestyle and spread the message that heart disease is killing our mothers, daughters, sisters and friends.

Go Red For Women

Coleen Mays, Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative member and Springfield resident, knows firsthand why listening to your body and being a medical advocate for yourself is so important. If she hadn't, she might not be here today to share her story.

For Coleen, it all started on a Friday evening with huge waves of pain over

her back and down her arm into her fingertips. She describes it as a rolling pain. Thinking it was acid reflux, she sent her husband to the pharmacy but the medication didn't help. Saturday she was fine, but Sunday she had symptoms again and went to urgent care. Her blood work and EKG came back normal, and the doctor suspected her gallbladder, said he would order the test and sent her home.

Coleen started researching gallbladder symptoms and she had none of them. She did, however, have many of the signs of heart problems – she was a smoker, with cholesterol more than 300 and a family history of heart disease. On Tuesday, she felt so bad her husband took her to the emergency room. There, an intern did another EKG which was also normal, but because of her family history he told her he “liked her story,” meaning there was a reason to look into it further.

Within an hour, Coleen was having a heart catheterization, which showed four blockages of 100, 98, 86 and 74

percent. Stents were not an option; she needed a quadruple bypass.

On Thursday, Coleen had surgery and says, “When I woke up in recovery is when the nightmare really began. I felt my chest and something was poking me. I couldn't move and I was so miserable. For six months, I dealt with this incredible chest pain. I was in rehab, and it hurt. I couldn't bend over and get anything out of the cupboard or hug my grandkids. I was in constant pain and on pain pills.”

A physician's assistant suggested she hadn't dealt with the trauma and might need anti-depressants. Coleen then began second-guessing herself, wondering if she was imagining it, but it didn't get better. She even tried acupuncture for the pain, but it was extremely painful due to the lack of muscle on the chest wall.

Finally, a cardiac rehab nurse noticed a red spot on Coleen's chest and told her to go get it checked out. One of the sharp ends of the woven wires, used to weave together her



American
Heart
Association®



Go Red For Women is nationally sponsored by



Coleen Mays – Survivor/Passionate Educator

Matters of Your Heart



RISKS

83% believe that heart attacks and stroke can be prevented, but aren't motivated to do anything

56% of adults have been told by a healthcare professional to improve their health

60% of adults don't know their blood pressure and cholesterol numbers

44% monitor their blood pressure outside of the doctor's office

99% of Americans need to improve their heart health

72% don't consider themselves at risk for heart disease

58% put no effort into improving their heart health

Heart disease is the **#1** leading cause of death in the United States



1 of every 3 deaths in the United States is caused by heart disease and stroke

Every **25 seconds** an American will have a coronary event



Every **39 seconds** someone dies from heart disease and stroke

Each year, an estimated **785,000** Americans will have their first heart attack



Each year, an estimated **470,000** Americans will have another heart attack

Lowering your blood pressure may decrease your risk of stroke and heart disease by about **50%**



FACTS

More than **62,000** visits per day on heart.org and strokeassociation.org

 **329** Join our Facebook communities every day

Join our conversation every day at facebook.com/AmericanHeart

Statistics from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. ©2012, American Heart Association. 4/12DS5479

love your heart

breast bone after surgery, was trying to come out. She fought to have the surgeon remove the wires, and relief was immediate.

Right before walking into the ER in 2005, Coleen had her last cigarette. She had tried to quit many times before but this was the incentive she needed. With medication and diet, her cholesterol now hovers around 165, due to little choices she makes every day. She also went through cardiac rehab for four or five years following the surgery and is planning to rejoin a therapy pool, which is easier on her arthritic knees.

Coleen is passionate about educating women to listen to their bodies. "You have to advocate for your own health care," she says. "No one knows your body like you do and you can't depend on someone else - you have to fight for it! For six months, I was being told there was nothing wrong with me and it was all in my head! Even at the beginning, when all the tests were coming back normal, I knew something was wrong. If I hadn't stuck with it, I don't know what would have happened. I have no heart damage because it was caught before I had a heart attack."

Ironically, two years later Coleen's husband, Ron, had heart issues. His EKG came back normal and, when told they were ordering blood work, Coleen and Ron said they were going to the emergency room instead. Ron is diabetic and doesn't have a lot of nerve feeling. When they did the EKG in the ER, Ron was in the midst of a heart attack. In Ron's case, they were able to put in stents, but he has a lot of heart damage from the attack.

Coleen loves telling her story and often has the opportunity as part of the American Heart Association's "Go Red For Women Campaign." She believes in the mission of the AHA and wants to get the word out that women don't have to die from heart disease.

"Don't dismiss symptoms," stresses Coleen. "We hear that women have pain up the left arm and into the jaw, but that's not always the case. It can be as simple as not being able to walk and carry on a normal conversation. You might be out of breath, nauseous, just generally feel sick or have waves of pain. It's just something you know deep down isn't right."

Educate yourself

Heart disease, including stroke, is the leading cause of death for men and women in the United States. Every year, heart disease triggers one in four deaths. The good news? Heart disease can often be prevented when people make healthy choices and manage their health conditions.

To prevent heart disease and increase awareness of its effects, the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) joins the nation this February to mark American Heart Month. We encourage cooperative members to know the warning

signs of heart attack and stroke and, most importantly, even if you're not sure, don't wait before calling 9-1-1. Minutes matter!

Make healthy changes to lower your risk of developing heart disease. If you already have it, controlling or preventing risk factors remains important.

To lower your risk:

- ♥ Watch your weight.
- ♥ Quit smoking and avoid second-hand smoke.
- ♥ Control your cholesterol and blood pressure.
- ♥ Be physically active and eat healthy.
- ♥ If you use alcohol, drink in moderation.
- ♥ Get regular medical check-ups.
- ♥ If you have diabetes, control your blood sugar.

To learn more about the warning signs of heart attacks and strokes, go to www.heart.org.




1968 Pulitzer Prize;
Rocco Morabito, *Jacksonville Journal*
Courtesy: Rocco Morabito

Did you know?

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) was a technique discovered in the 1950s to reverse the effects of accidental electrocution of electric line workers. Since medical training and equipment weren't needed, the average layperson could learn the technique.

Today, the line workers and employees of Illinois electric cooperatives are still being trained in CPR, and the use of automated external defibrillators (AED). The AIEC Safety and Training Department has instructors who annually conduct American Red Cross CPR/AED certification training at cooperatives across the state.

 American Red Cross

7-9 Illinois Horse Fair, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., Springfield. New for 2014, the Heartland Horseman's Challenge is a judged competition all three days where four-horsemen/women are given an opportunity to choose and work with a rescue horse, culminating in a freestyle ride and challenge course. The Challenge will allow horsemen to showcase their program and potential talents of their chosen horse, which will be available for adoption throughout the event. Fri., Sat., 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Daily admission \$10 or weekend pass is \$25. Special events \$10 general seating or \$15 preferred seating. www.horsemenscouncil.org or 217-529-6503.

8 St. Peter's United Church of Christ Sausage Supper, 905 S. Russell St., Champaign. This supper, started in 1940, is still going strong. Menu includes sausage patties, sauerkraut, green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy, applesauce, drink and dessert. 4 to 7 p.m. Carry out is available. Adults \$10, children 5-12 yrs. \$5, under 5 is free. 217-356-3635 or office@stpetersucc.com.

8-9 Spring Home Expo, The Pavilion of the City of Marion, 1602 Sioux Dr., Marion. Annual Home Expo includes more than 70 vendors showing off the latest styles in home décor, improvement and landscaping. Sat. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission \$4, ages 12 and under are free. www.hbasi.org or 618-529-5085.

8-9 Living History at Fort Massac State Park, 1308 E. 5th St., Metropolis. L'ecole du Soldat or School of the Soldier will be held for French troops. French

and Indian War period living historians from throughout the Midwest will attend this two-day training session. You will see the Marines and the malice as they learn the weapons, drills, marching and tactical maneuvers of the French military in the 1750s. Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 618-524-9321.

12 The Irish Comedy Tour, Effingham Performance Center, 1325 Outer Belt West, Effingham. For one night, the EPC becomes an Irish pub, its party atmosphere defined by a boisterous, belly-laugh band of hooligans who will have you "Dublin" over in laughter. They're Irish, they're American and they're not holding back! Be sure to catch them from 7:30-10 p.m. Tickets are \$35, \$25 and \$21. 217-540-2788 or www.epc.org.

14 Poetry Out Loud-Illinois State Contest, Hoogland Center for the Arts, LRS Theatre, 420 S. 6th St., Springfield. High school students who won school and regional recitation contests vie for the state championship, thereby earning a spot at the national Poetry Out Loud competition. They will recite three poems. 1-3:30 p.m. 217-753-3519 or www.springfieldartsco.org.

15 Family Fun-Maple Syrup Time, Rock Springs Nature Center, 3939 Nearing Lane, Decatur. Experience the process of making maple syrup. See how a tree is tapped and how the sap becomes syrup! 1:30 p.m. Free, but reservations required by 3/14. www.maconcountyconservation.org or 217-423-7708.

21 Midnight Fishing, Rock Springs Nature Center, 3939 Nearing Lane, Decatur. Bring your equipment to Rock Springs' Information Shelter for a unique

chance to fish the Cattail Ponds at night. We recommend lit bobbers and worms for bait. Fishing licenses required for those who need them. Fee is \$5/person. 10 p.m.-midnight. Register by 3/20. www.maconcountyconservation.org or 217-423-7708.

22 - Spring Floral Show, Apr. 6 Washington Park Botanical Garden, Fayette and Chatham Roads, Springfield. Easter lilies and lush tropical foliage fill the Exhibit Hall and Conservatory for the annual display. Daily noon-4 p.m. www.springfieldparks.org.

28-30 150th Anniversary of the Charleston Riot - Civil War Brought to Coles County, various locations around Charleston. This 3-day event marks the 150th anniversary of the Charleston Illinois Riot. Activities include a Civil War encampment, house tours, riot reenactment, period music and vendors. See agenda at www.charlestonillinoisriot.org or 217-348-0430.

29 Piecers of the Heartland Quilt Show, Canton High School, 1001 N. Main St., Canton. Show includes more than 250 quilts, mystery quilts, friendship quilts, wearable art and home décor on display. Vendors, concessions, door prizes and 2nd hand treasures included and a quilt raffle. Display and oral history of antique quilts at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. The Tea Ladies, Inc. present the Silver Charity Tea at 12:30 p.m. Free parking. Admission: \$5. mcbrown4000@yahoo.com or 309-647-6496.

29 Spring Open House, State Street in downtown Geneseo. Shake off the winter blues and shop throughout Geneseo for spring items at great prices. No admission. www.geneseo.org or 309-944-2686.



Visit our website, www.icl.coop



To be considered for inclusion, please submit events in the format used above. Preference is given to events sponsored by non-profit entities. Submitting an event is not a guarantee of publication. Photos are welcome, but will not be returned unless a self-addressed and stamped envelope is provided. Events are subject to change, so please contact the event sponsor for confirmation.

Deadline: February 1 for April events. **Mail to:** Illinois Datebook, PO Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708. E-mail to: datebook@aiec.coop.



THERE'S A TREASURE IN YOUR BACKYARD

You may not realize it, but your home is sitting on a **free and renewable** supply of energy. A WaterFurnace geothermal comfort system taps into the stored solar energy in your own backyard to provide **savings of up to 70% on heating, cooling and hot water**. That's money in the bank and a smart investment in your family's comfort. Contact your local WaterFurnace dealer today to learn how to **tap into your buried treasure**.

YOUR LOCAL WATERFURNACE DEALERS

Albers

Toennies Service Co.
(618) 248-5130

Bloomington

Wm. Masters, Inc.
(309) 662-8481

Brighton

Den-Son Heating & Cooling
(618) 372-8375

Canton

Spoon River Mechanical Services
(309) 647-5009

GM Mechanical
(309) 647-5700

Carbondale

GL Morris
(618) 457-0190

Cartersville

RSP Heating & Cooling
(618) 942-2424

Charleston

Jansen's Heating & Air
(217) 235-5223

Chester

Schumer Bros
(573) 547-6517

Cobden

Davis Heating & Cooling
(618) 893-2821

Decatur

Design-Air Heating & A/C
(217) 429-1105

Delevan

Jeckel Plumbing & Heating
(309) 244-8265

Edwardsville

Cummings Heating & Cooling
(618) 656-8953

Effingham

Jansen's Heating & Air
(217) 347-5223

Fairbury

Popejoy Plumbing, Htg & Electric
(815) 692-4471

Fairfield

Electro Electric
(618) 847-8102

Flora

Electro Electric, Inc.
(618) 662-4520

Gifford

Duden and Silver
(217) 568-7954

Goodfield

Hinrichsen Heating & Air
(309) 965-2604

Hamilton

Peters Heating & Air, Inc.
(217) 847-2777

Harrisburg

D&C Heating & Air
(618) 997-6577

Lawrenceville

Tracy Electric, Inc.
(618) 943-2243

Litchfield

Snell Enterprises, Inc.
(217) 324-4560

Macomb

Arnold Brothers Heating & Cooling
(309) 833-2852

Marion

D&C Heating & Air
(618) 997-6577

Mount Vernon

Holloway Heating & Air, Inc.
(618) 242-5481

Pana

Jansen's Heating & Air
(217) 562-5201

Paxton

Houston Plumbing & Heating
(800) 379-2165

Petersburg

Collins Plumbing & Heating
(217) 632-3670

Pittsfield

Peters Heating & Air, Inc.
(217) 285-1600

Quincy

Peters Heating & Air, Inc.
(217) 222-1368

Red Bud

DeRousse Heating & Air, Inc.
(618) 282-2224

Springfield

Collins Plumbing & Heating
(217) 793-8031

Taylorville

Jansen's Heating & Air
(217) 824-4138

Thomasboro

HovelN Heating & Cooling, Inc.
(217) 643-2125

Tilton

Blackie's Automatic Engineering
(217) 442-1440

Virden

Snell Enterprises, Inc.
(217) 965-3911

Waterloo

DeRousse Heating & Air, Inc.
(618) 282-2224

Winchester

Little Heating & A/C, Inc.
(217) 742-3332



waterfurnace.com
(800) GEO-SAVE



Which will you choose?

Pick Your Own \$5.00 Free Gift!



N7820 Eye of Tiger Iris - Dramatic two-tone dutch iris. Multiplies rapidly.

10 FOR \$5.00



N7302 Double Hollyhocks - Huge powder puffs bloom July to September. Grows 5-7' tall. Our choice of color.

6 FOR \$5.00

Award Winner!



N7045 Red Maple - Majestic shade tree turns brilliant red in fall. Hardy and disease-resistant.

1 FOR \$5.00



N6221 Chinese Wisteria - Astounding foot long flowers! Reaches 25-40' tall. Space 5' apart in full to partial sun.

3 FOR \$5.00



N7588 3-IN-1 Rose of Sharon - Huge blooms in 3 colors from July to September.

1 FOR \$5.00



N6601 Ozark Beauty Strawberry - Continuous crops of large, juicy berries all summer! Heavy producer.

25 FOR \$5.00



N6857 Color Changing Tree Hydrangea - Breathtaking sight and huge blooms mid-summer to fall. Bloom colors change from white to pink to purple.

2 FOR \$5.00



N7751 Walk On Me - This crimson carpet grows almost anywhere! Features flowers in summer and evergreen leaves. Grows 3" tall. Plant 6-12" apart.

3 FOR \$5.00



N7108 Siloam Double Classic Daylily - Sports big 5" fragrant double blossoms. Blooms in early summer and again later in the season.

1 FOR \$5.00

Award Winner!



N7587 3-N-1 Butterfly Bush - Beautiful butterfly magnet with 3 colors. Grows 4-8' tall.

1 FOR \$5.00



N6942 Weeping Cherry - Pink fountain of beauty! One of the hardiest ornamental trees.

1 FOR \$5.00



N5493 Triple Crown Thornless Blackberry - Thornless stems with large, delicious, firm berries.

1 FOR \$5.00

Choose any one of these \$5 Specials for FREE

with a \$10 minimum order.

Fill out the row next to "FREE" in the order form to claim your FREE \$5 Special!

www.HoneycreekNurseries.com/QuickOrder.asp
Enter Dept. 901-9037

Cannot be combined with other offers
Limit 1 Free \$5 Special per household.

Offer Expires 6/1/2014

HONEYCREEK NURSERIES

Division of Burgess Seed & Plant Co.

1804 Hamilton Rd., DEPT. 901-9037

Bloomington, Illinois 61704-9609

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____ Phone _____
Email _____

Check or Money Order enclosed.

Mastercard VISA

Credit Card # _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Please indicate the items to send below.

HOW MANY	Item #	ITEM NAME	COST
			FREE (\$5 Value)

Thank You for Your Order!

Shipping & Processing \$ 5.95

SUBTOTAL \$ _____

IL Residents add 6.25% Sales Tax \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED OR CHARGED \$ _____