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# Illinois Country Living

JUNE 2016 • ICL.COOP

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# Illinois Country Living

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# Take advantage of tax-free investments

## State has tools for a brighter financial future

A college education is part of the American dream. But for too many families it also feels increasingly out of reach. At the Illinois Treasurer's office, we provide the tools that help families live better lives. Inside this tool box are college savings accounts.

College savings accounts do more than invest in our children. They set expectations. A child who knows they have a college savings account is seven times more likely to attend.

The Bright Start and the Bright Directions savings programs feature tax-free investment growth when used on qualified expenses such as tuition or books. Also, the ability to use these savings at certified trade schools often is overlooked.

A Bright Start account can be opened for as little as \$25. Parents or grandparents typically open an account for a newborn or young child. However, non-relatives also can open or contribute to an account.

We continue to work on both plans to bring them within reach of every family. Recent changes to Bright Directions eliminated certain costs and greatly reduced fees. These improvements, combined with its investment strategy, earned it high marks from Morningstar. Today, we have more than 400,000 college savings accounts with an investment total greater than \$8 billion.

We have other tools for those who wish to help themselves.

There is a retirement crisis in America. Today, the median retirement account balance for all working-age households is \$3,000, according to the National Institute on Retirement Savings. This crisis will touch everyone because workers who do not save enough today will need public assistance tomorrow.

The vast majority of workers who

do not save, work for employers that do not offer a workplace retirement option. Secure Choice is designed to solve this challenge.

A Secure Choice retirement account travels with the worker. Employers at least two years old with at least 25 full-time workers that do not offer retirement savings will participate in Secure Choice. Workers will use a payroll deduction to invest three percent of their wages in a Roth IRA.

We hope to open the first Secure Choice accounts in 2017. As many as 1.2 million workers could benefit.

We provide another tool to help families prepare for the future. This one offers peace of mind because it aids the most vulnerable among us - our loved ones who are blind or disabled.

The Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) sets aside money similar to our college savings plans. The investment income is tax free when used to pay for qualified expenses. There is a wide array of coverage, from physical therapy, to remodeling a house to accommodate a wheelchair.

ABLE will reduce the need for public assistance and lower demand for publicly funded safety-net programs.

The Treasurer's Office is leading this effort nationally. Iowa, Minnesota, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Alaska, Missouri and Kansas have accepted our invitation. Working together allows us to pool investment dollars and earn a better return than had we gone alone. We hope to open the first ABLE accounts in 2017. As many as 36,000 Illinois families could benefit.

We also safeguard unclaimed property and life insurance benefits. This includes investment accounts,



bank deposit boxes or misplaced paychecks. Many are amazed to learn that we are trying to reunite more than \$2 billion with the proper owners.

Most unclaimed property stems from an innocent misunderstanding. However, some life insurance companies choose not to pay death benefits when they know or should have known that the policy holder passed away.

Amazingly, insurance companies such as Kemper acknowledge these unpaid policies are built into their profit plans. In fact, three Kemper companies sued my office to stop our efforts to find unpaid policies. Kemper's outrageous behavior gives its industry and our state a black eye.

I believe in Illinois. I believe if we use these tools properly - College Savings, Secure Choice, ABLE and returning money to our citizens - we can give our children a state in which they can be proud.

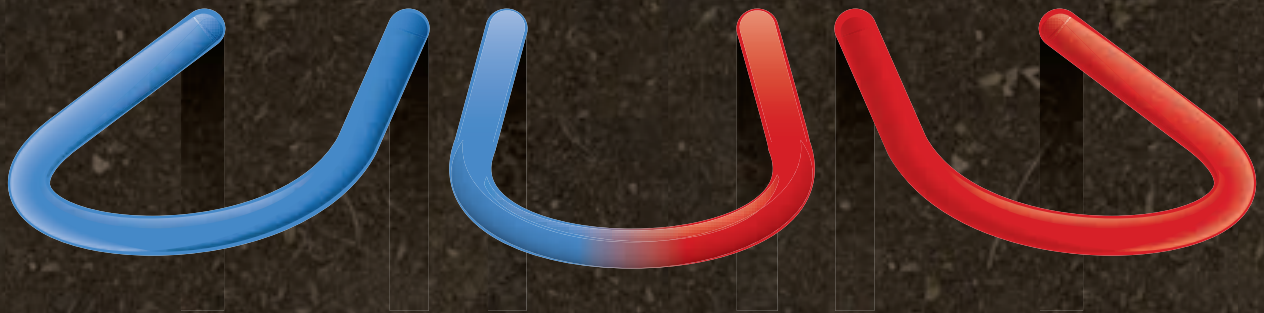
We have a bright future, but only if we work together. These are some of my ideas. I am eager to hear yours. 💡



**Michael Frerichs** was elected Illinois State Treasurer in November 2014. For more information about state programs mentioned go to [www.illinoistreasurer.gov](http://www.illinoistreasurer.gov).

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## Illinois Renewable Energy Conference July 21

John Freitag, Vice President of Operations for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and Executive Director for the Geothermal Alliance of Illinois, will be speaking at the third annual Illinois Renewable Energy Conference to be held Thursday, July 21, at the Bone Student Center of Illinois State University in Normal.

The conference is led by the Center for Renewable Energy at Illinois State University, coordinated in partnership with the Geothermal Alliance of Illinois, Illinois Wind Working Group, Wind on the Wires Illinois Biomass Working Group, Illinois Solar Energy Association, and Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance. Plenary sessions will be of interest to all areas of renewable energy. Breakout sessions will discuss policy, technology and case studies in specific tracks for wind, solar, biomass, geothermal and energy efficiency. The early registration rate is \$50 per person. Register online through the website, [www.RenewableEnergy.IllinoisState.edu/events/rec/](http://www.RenewableEnergy.IllinoisState.edu/events/rec/). ☞



## Co-op sponsored students meet with state leaders

During the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day on Wednesday, April 13 in Springfield more than 225 students from around Illinois had an opportunity to visit the State Capitol, view state government in action and question their legislators on key issues. They heard from their local state senators and representatives and some even met Governor Bruce Rauner.

They also were invited into the office of Secretary of State Jesse White. During lunch, Treasurer Michael Frerichs addressed students and chaperones and challenged them to take an interest in the political process,

and encouraged them to follow their dreams and do what interests them because life can take interesting turns and twists. While in Springfield, the students also visited the Supreme Court, Old State Capitol and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.

At the end of the day the students were interviewed for the chance to participate in the Youth to Washington Tour from June 10 – 17, 2016. Youth Day is designed to introduce young rural leaders to state government. There were 26 co-ops from across the state represented at the event. ☞



**Illinois pioneers of rural electrification**

*Lyle E. Dunham*

Lyle Dunham was “loaned” to the AIEC on a temporary basis in the summer of 1951 by Adams Electrical Co-Operative to manage the AIEC Annual Meeting Caravan. The Caravan crisscrossed the state to a dozen co-op annual meetings during hot summers, and consisted of three trailers full of two mammoth-sized tents, 5,000 chairs, and sound and lighting equipment. At that time, set-up, tear-down and meetings were a three-day process.

In 1952, Dunham became the AIEC Director of the Member Services Department. He helped conduct the first Youth to Washington Tour in the summer of 1959, and coordinated the Emergency Aid Program, now known as the Emergency Work Plan, to assist fellow cooperatives with recovery efforts in times of disaster.

*In celebration of the AIEC’s 75th anniversary, this is sixth in a series of profiles on Illinois’ rural electric pioneers.*

## SIU receives \$1 million grant to fuel energy scholarships

A national research agency has awarded Southern Illinois University Carbondale a new \$1 million grant aimed at helping community college students prepare for careers in the energy sector.

The National Science Foundation awarded the grant from its Division of Undergraduate Education to SIU, said Lizette Chevalier, associate dean of the College of Engineering. Students can apply now for the Southern Illinois Energy Scholarship, which on average will be worth about \$7,000 a year for two years, Chevalier added.

Fran Harackiewicz, professor of electrical and computer engineering, will serve as the main contact for students, manage the grant, and disseminate the findings of the research component as related to energy education.

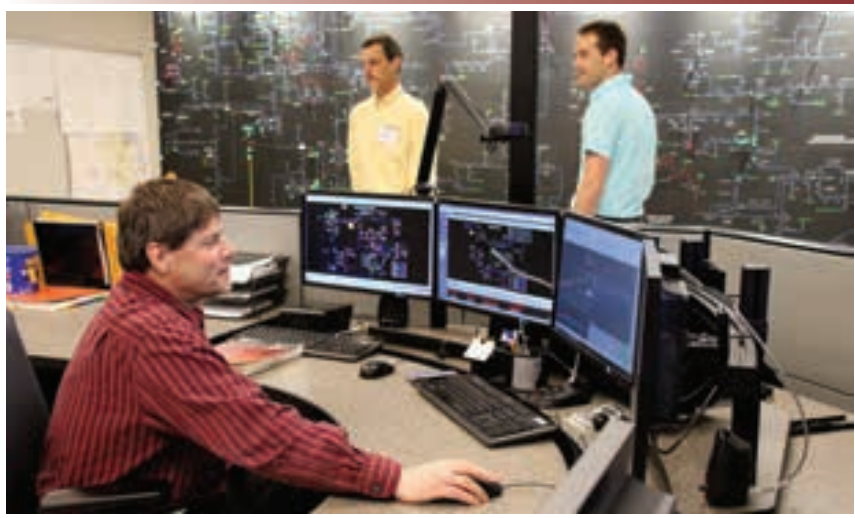
SIU has a long history of educating tomorrow’s energy sector leaders. In addition to this latest scholarship opportunity, the university also is home to the Advanced Coal and Energy Research Center, which awards scholarships and provides a regional resource to help meet the challenges the energy industry will face in the future.

“Tomorrow’s leaders must study fields as diverse as renewable energy, so-called ‘smart grids,’ high-efficiency coal technology, energy efficiency in industry, advanced vehicles and bioenergy. Strong employment prospects await students who enter those fields,” Chevalier said. In Illinois, for example, employment and wage data predict a nearly nine percent increase in the number of energy related jobs, with the largest growth occurring in energy engineering.

The total grant is for \$1 million, the majority of which will be available as scholarship money to qualified students, with transfer students from community colleges as the program’s main target. The amount of each scholarship will be based on financial need.

Programs eligible for the scholarship include: electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, mining engineering, electrical engineering technology, physics, chemistry, plant biology, geology, geography and architectural studies.

For more information and an application go to <http://energy-scholarships.siu.edu>.



## Co-op leaders discuss issues on Capitol Hill

Joining nearly 1,500 electric cooperative leaders, including Illinois co-op managers and board members, discussed key co-op issues with members of Congress and their staffs at Capitol Hill meetings during the 2016 NRECA Legislative Conference, held May 1-3 in Washington, D.C.

At one meeting, the Illinois co-op delegation met with Rep. Cheri Bustos' Legislative Director Lyron Blum-Evitts. The co-op leaders discussed these key issues:



### Join new caucuses

Participants asked representatives to join two new House caucuses to help promote co-op priorities. The Rural Broadband Caucus will focus on bridging the digital divide while the Co-op Business Caucus will focus on promoting the co-op business model.

### Oppose pole attachment legislation

Draft legislation before the House Energy and Commerce Committee would extend federal regulation of attachments to electric co-op power poles. Co-op leaders asked their officials to maintain the federal pole attachment exemption for electric cooperatives.

### Extend geothermal credit

Co-ops asked lawmakers to extend the tax credit for highly efficient geothermal heat pumps, which expire at the

end of 2016. Co-ops help their members save energy and money by promoting geothermal heat pumps.

### Support coal ash legislation

A bill introduced in the Senate would prevent the EPA from reversing course on its coal ash regulations and require states to implement the EPA rule through a permitting program. Legislation has passed the House and co-ops sought Senate support.

### Support FEMA reauthorization

Co-op leaders sought Senate support for H.R. 1471, a bill passed by the House that cuts red tape. Without FEMA, many electric cooperative consumers living in disaster-stricken areas could face significantly higher electric rates. This legislation also includes the FEMA disaster threshold changes, which are critical to downstate Illinois. ⚡





# ELECTRIC CO-OPS WERE CONSTRUCTED WITH LINES, POLES AND THE FOOLHARDY NOTION THAT WE ALL PROSPER BY HELPING EACH OTHER.



It seems obvious in retrospect, but there was a time when getting electricity outside of the city limits wasn't a given. Today, the spirit of community that co-ops were built upon continues to thrive. And as members we can all lend a hand by saving energy. Learn how at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).



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GET YOUR KICKS on



By Jerry  
McDonald

The now legendary Route 66 was established in 1926 as the federal government began to establish a numbered road system. In reality, it was a collection of state roads bundled together, renamed, then over the course of the next 60 years, rerouted and upgraded and eventually rendered obsolete by interstates. It was the preferred route to the west, but as with all roads, it ran both ways through eight states hosting journeys, both epic and mundane.

In its heyday, for every traveler who went from Chicago, the road's official start point, to its end in Santa Monica, Calif., there were thousands, perhaps tens of thousands, who used it to get to and from the closest town to pay bills, pick up groceries or visit the doctor. It was a road, two lanes of asphalt so dangerous in some sections that it became known as "Bloody 66," yet in the national psyche, it has become emblematic of the American

spirit. Route 66 is one of a handful of things - George Washington, cowboys and Coca-Cola®, that symbolize America to the world.

It has inspired a song (most famously performed by Nat King Cole); a television series that ran four seasons (1960-1964); boasts 12 associations (three of them based in European countries); is the subject of 16 websites, and over 30 publications detailing the history, sights to see, places to shop and/or eat, or a combination of all those.

This 2,200-mile plus asphalt corridor, that was once the means to a destination, has itself become a destination. Route 66 was officially decommissioned in 1985, but the ink was scarcely dry on the document before groups began forming to resurrect the old road. Illinois is where Route 66 officially begins, so it is fitting the Route 66 Association of Illinois was one of those pioneering groups. Organized in 1989 "to preserve, promote and enjoy the past and present of US Highway 66," it has been instrumental in the development of Route 66 as a tourism draw for the state.



## Wigwam Village

The increased highway travel that led to the creation of Route 66, and other numbered highways, also gave rise to the "motor hotel" or as we know it today, the motel.

Route 66 certainly had its share of them, but

as sections of the highway closed, so did many of the motels. All that remains are some decaying buildings, a highway plaque, memorabilia in an antique shop, or the memories of people "of a certain age." But in Holbrook, Ariz., the Wigwam



The Pontiac headquarters for the association, is also one of 13 communities that participate in the Red Carpet Corridor Festival. The festival is held along a section of the old road stretching from Joliet to Towanda, and allows visitors to sample local hospitality and memorabilia, while viewing artifacts of the road's history.

Joliet boasts the Rich and Creamy Ice Cream Stand with the dancing Blues Brothers on the roof; and Lexington offers Memory Lane, a segment of the original road now a walking trail lined with vintage signs. Odell's restored Standard Oil Service

station is a must see, as is Schenk's Garage in Towanda, and the Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum in downtown Pontiac. Run by the Route 66 of Illinois Association museum, housed in the old city firehouse (along with a military museum and the old city jail), home to hundreds of items relating to the road, including a booth from the first Steak n Shake restaurant, a chain that had its beginnings in Normal.

Docent Rosalie Gerald, who has worked at the museum for eight years, says the appeal is truly universal. "Here at the museum, we have seen people from all 50 states, as well as visitors

from 19 different countries," she noted. "We even had a school class from South Africa who had won a trip for the entire class, and they chose to tour Route 66."

Visitors are allowed, indeed encouraged, to park their vehicle and/or themselves in front of the huge mural of a Route 66 road sign that graces the side of the building, "the largest Route 66 mural in the world," Mrs. Gerald proudly informed me, "and the roadway in front of the sign is made of paving bricks from the original road."

Word about the museum is spreading as evidenced by the numbers. The

Village is still in business and looks, both inside and out, very much as it did when it opened in 1950.

Although not part of the original chain established in 1935 outside of Horse Cave, Ky., the motel in Holbrook was built under license and to the same specifications. There are 15 wigwams (not rooms, teepees or units) plus the main office. Each wigwam is furnished with the original

restored hickory furniture, two double beds, cable TV and a window mounted air conditioner. There are no phones in the wigwams, but there is a small bathroom. In keeping with the nostalgia theme, a number of vintage automobiles are scattered throughout the complex, as are small metal benches with "Wigwam Village #6" etched into them.

Wigwam Village #6, as it has been designated, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, as are two other surviving villages, one in Cave City, Ky., the other in San Bernardino, Calif.

Interesting in knowing more about the village or staying there?

[www.galerie-kokopelli.com/wigwam](http://www.galerie-kokopelli.com/wigwam)  
928-524-3048.



*From the beginning to the end of Route 66, travelers can find a wide variety of interesting stops along the way.*

year 2009 saw a net total of 11,220 visitors, of whom more than 4,000 were from abroad. In 2015, of the more than 25,000 people who visited the museum, about 7,000 were international visitors.

The Annual Red Carpet Corridor Festival is scheduled each May. While 2016 marks the tenth year for the Red Carpet Corridor Festival, it will mark the second year for its southern counterpart, the Blue Carpet Corridor Festival. Stretching from Chatham, just south of Springfield, to Collinsville, just a few miles outside of St. Louis, the

Blue Carpet Corridor follows various alignments that mirror changes made in the route as it evolved to meet changing technology and community needs. That's why connecting the dots on the 18 participating communities produced a more eclectic route than does the red corridor.

The Village of Gillespie, just south of Carlinville, marked the inaugural year by unveiling a mural painted on the side of a downtown pharmacy. The mural depicts the pharmacy as it looked in the 1920s, featuring an iconic Route 66 road sign and a vintage touring car. Another interesting

bit of memorabilia along the route is the world's largest catsup bottle in Collinsville. According to local historian and president of the Blue Carpet Corridor Coalition, Cheryl Eichar Jett, "In spite of a very rainy weekend, our first year's event was successful. Over 200 cars made the tour along with several motorcycle groups, and visitors made stops in practically all of our participating communities." As for 2016, she adds, "All of our communities are excited, looking forward to a good second year, and we're hoping that the Illinois Museum in Gillespie will be ready in time for the festival."



## Cadillac Ranch

Route 66 is home to some strange sights; the giant catsup bottle outside of Collinsville, Ill.; the blue whale at Catoosa, Okla.; the wigwam motel at Holbrook, Ariz., but perhaps the oddest of all is the Cadillac Ranch outside of Amarillo, Tx. It rises out of the Texas hardpan alongside a section of I-40 like someone drunk, directionally challenged,

short of stone, and armed with every shade of paint known to the western world, had started to build a modern Stonehenge.

Collaboration between three members of a counter culture art group, Ant Farm, and an eccentric Texas millionaire, Stanley Marsh 3, the ranch was created in 1974 just off route 66 west



*This tiled mural in Amarillo, Tx., is just one of many murals found along the 2,200-mile long Route 66.*

This year's Blue Carpet Corridor Festival is scheduled for the weekend of June 11-12.

Originally there were to have been three corridors; red for the north, blue for the south and white for central Illinois. The central corridor has yet to establish itself as such, but central Illinois, specifically Springfield, is home to two institutions that are tied to the Mother Road (a title bestowed upon Route 66 by none other than John Steinbeck in his novel *The Grapes of Wrath*.) – the International Mother Road Festival, and Springfield eatery, the Cozy Dog Drive-in.

Developed in the mid-1940s by Ed Waldmire, Jr. while he was serving in the army, the Cozy Dog, a hot dog dipped in a cornbread-type batter and served on a stick, was introduced

at the Lake Springfield Beach House. By 1949, the Cozy Dog Drive-in was located on "Route 66 Sixth Street," where it still remains (the current building is next door to the original Sixth Street location). The venerable drive-in serves 400-500 Cozy Dogs a day, a figure that goes up significantly during the September weekend when Springfield hosts the Mother Road Festival. A word of caution, though; when you step up to the counter at the Cozy Dog Drive-in to place your order, do not, and I repeat, do not ask for a corn dog. They only serve Cozy Dogs.

Good food, music and motoring is the recipe for the International Route 66 Mother Road Festival that takes place every September (September 23-25 this year) in downtown Springfield. If you grew up in the '40s,

'50s, '60s, or even the '70s, it's a trip down memory lane with over a thousand cars on display.

So whether your delight is a classic such as a 1956 T-bird that looks as if it just came off the showroom floor, a monster hot rod that looks, and sounds, like the fevered dream of a fanatical gearhead, or a restored pickup truck, chances are you will find it as you wind your way through the downtown.

Route 66 in Illinois is a microcosm of the road across the remaining seven states. Sections of the old route have been subsumed into other state highways, miles have been obliterated by interstates, but there are also places where as you motor west, the decades fall away, and for a brief moment you are in the embrace of the Mother Road. ■

of Amarillo. It is a series of Cadillacs ranging from a 1949 model to a 1960, buried nose down facing west. Its original concept (such as it was) was to document the growth of the tailfin on Cadillacs, and make some statement about the American culture. In 1997, Marsh had the cars relocated to their current location off I-40 and there they remain.

Originally, the cars were all factory colors, and easily recognizable as Cadillacs. Over the years the public has taken pieces from the cars for souvenirs, and spray painted them so that in some cases all that remains are frames, axles and chunks of sheet metal too big to carry off. In spite of, or perhaps because of, the desecration the site

remains wildly popular with folks from all over the world. A frontage road allows access to the property and most folks doing the Mother Road pilgrimage arrive with a spray can of paint and a camera to record their contribution, because chances are their work will be covered up by someone else within a few days.

# Targeting ticks to prevent Lyme disease

It is tick time in Illinois. From early spring until late fall, deer ticks can be found in grassy and wooded areas. The Centers for Disease Control recently announced that more than 50 percent of the counties in the United States have ticks that carry Lyme disease. This little insect can carry many bacteria including Lyme disease and the parasite Babesia. The ticks, in infancy, can be as small as a pin head. They are brown and can attach themselves to humans anywhere on the body.

Your best defense is not to come in contact with ticks. However, there are many ways to protect yourself from Lyme Disease, the bacteria most often transferred.

1. Walk in the middle of trails, avoiding sitting on logs or leaning on trees.
2. Wear a hat and tuck in your hair.
3. Wear long-sleeved shirts fitted at the waist.
4. Wear shoes, no bare feet or sandals.
5. Wear long pants tucked into high socks or duct tape around pant bottoms.
6. Consider Deet for skin and permethrin for clothes.
7. Wear white or light colored clothing to make it easier to see the ticks.
8. Do tick checks immediately, and three days after outdoor activity, being sure to check hair.
9. Shower right away and take care to feel for bumps that could be ticks.
10. Ask your veterinarian about protection for your furry friends.



If you find a tick, don't squeeze it. Using tweezers, grasp it as close to the skin as possible and pull straight out. Clean and disinfect the area bitten and wash your hands. You may wish to save the tick in a closed container, in case you need to visit a doctor.

Early signs and symptoms of Lyme disease may occur within a month if you have been infected. You may have a red bump that has grown into a rash, sometimes with a bull's eye, but not everyone develops one. Flu-like symptoms such as long term fever, chills, fatigue, body aches and headaches, and other symptoms such as joint pain, may also be present which can lead to Lyme disease being

initially misdiagnosed.

Write down the symptoms you are experiencing and make an appointment with your doctor. You may not know if you were bitten, but the symptoms persist. Be sure the doctor knows you have been in a wooded area. He or she may give you an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) test, but this test can result in a false negative. A Western blot test, which is much more specific, may be required. Early treatment with antibiotics is usually the course of action.

Left untreated, Chronic Lyme Disease may occur. Some patients, who are not diagnosed within approximately three months, experience neurological, physical and emotional symptoms for long periods of time and must find a "Lyme" doctor to prescribe treatment.

For your health, and that of those you love, take

preventative measures and, if bitten, seek early treatment. There are many websites with information regarding Lyme disease, and other tick-borne illnesses, including [www.lymedisease.org](http://www.lymedisease.org), [www.ilads.org](http://www.ilads.org), and [www.stopticks.org](http://www.stopticks.org). ♡

Linda Kehart, *Community Health Consultant*

Melissa Kehart, *Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor*

Source: California Lyme Disease Assoc. [www.lymedisease.org](http://www.lymedisease.org)

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# Bugged by bugs – make chemicals your last resort

Insects are the way of life for gardeners. And they have an amazing way of gnawing on your garden produce the day before you think it's ripe. Such is Illinois life.

Of course, certain vegetables are insect magnets.

If you raise eggplant, you're bound to get flea beetles, which create little round holes in the leaves, almost to the point of causing the leaf to yellow and fall off. That will reduce the eggplant yield.

Cucumbers attract cucumber beetles, which can lead to cucumber bacterial wilt. Beans are plagued by bean leaf beetles, especially in rural areas.

And, if you attempt to raise anything related to cabbages, such as collards, broccoli, cauliflower and kale, you'll get all the loopers and cabbage worms. Of course, many insects are a good source of protein if you accidentally munch on one.

Sadly, if you look long and hard, and in some cases about a nanosecond in front of you, you can find something feeding on every vegetable. But many, such as tomato hornworms, aren't that crucial in the grand scheme of things, with the plants being more resistant and tougher than the insects.

But when insects are plenty, and control is needed, the first thing you do is nothing. Stop. Think. What is the best and safest control?

In many cases, it isn't chemicals. In fact, chemicals should be the last resort.

Of course, the ideal situation is to go back in the spring and determine if there are more insect-resistant cultivars of the fruits and vegetables you want to grow. There might be. There might not be. Still, always look to see if something is more resistant to any pest, or maybe plant at a different time to avoid damage. This



happens with late-planted cucumbers and beans.

Make sure there is proper moisture, fertilization, and the soil is properly worked, and a healthy plant is able to tolerate more insect problems.

Next, are there things you can physically do? For example, if you see a tomato hornworm or cabbage looper, flick in on the ground and bring rapid decompression with your foot. In other words, squish the insect. (We tend to avoid the phrase "squash the bug" as the zucchinis get upset with profiling.)

If you don't want to bring your foot down hard, use a stick to smash or poke the critter, or put it between two bricks with the same compression factor transferred to your hands. Sure, they'll be some juicy bits, but remember it's all organic and benefits the soil.

If the thought of killing the creature outright bothers you, knock it into a can with soapy water, or just a plain paper sack and dispose

of the creature in the trash.

Streams of water will knock off the non-flying female aphids. Water can remove other creatures as well, but those with wings will just fly back up.

And when you have to resort to chemicals, go with the safer ones first. Insecticidal soaps and summer oils do a good job suffocating many insects without harming the plants.

When you do use chemicals, make sure to ALWAYS read and follow the directions on the label. If the insect you are trying to control, or the plant with the pest is NOT listed on the label, it is illegal to use that product. 💡



**David Robson** is Extension Specialist, Pesticide Safety for the University of Illinois. [drobson@illinois.edu](mailto:drobson@illinois.edu)





# 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.


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**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](http://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 "ILS4", 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.

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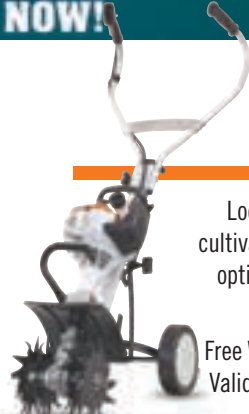


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*Recipes & Remembrances*

*Who:* Good Samaritan Society Mount Carroll  
*Cost:* \$20 includes shipping  
*Details:* Soft-backed, spiral bound  
*Pages of recipes:* 209  
*Send checks to:* Good Samaritan Society-Mount Carroll, c/o Anna Gray, 1006 N. Lowden Rd., Mount Carroll, IL 61053 or call 815-244-7715.



*Corn and Zucchini Saute* ^

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| 2 T. Extra virgin olive oil  | 1/4 t. ground cumin     |
| 1/2 c. chopped scallions   | 1/4 t. salt             |
| 1/2 t. finely chopped garlic   | 1/8 t. black pepper     |
| 2 c. fresh corn (about 4 ears)   | 1/2 c. chopped cilantro |
| 2 med. zucchini, quartered lengthwise and cut crosswise into 1/4-inch thick pieces |                         |

Heat oil in 12-inch heavy skillet over moderate heat until hot but not smoking. Cook scallions, stirring occasionally, until softened, about 3 minutes. Add garlic and cook stirring for about 1 minute. Add corn, zucchini, cumin, salt and pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally until zucchini is tender, about 4-6 minutes. Stir in cilantro and season with salt and pepper.

*Fruit Bowl with Marinade*

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>Marinade:</b>    | <b>Fruit:</b>  |
| 1/2 c. honey        | 5 c. fruit (cantaloupe, honeydew, watermelon, peaches or strawberries) |
| 1 c. water          |  |
| 1/4 c. lime juice   |  |
| 1/4 c. orange juice |  |

Combine marinade ingredients in a pan and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 5 minutes. Cool completely. Cut fruit into bite-sized pieces and melons into balls and combine into a bowl. Pour cooled marinade over all. Cover and refrigerate 1-2 hours before serving.

*Calling all cookbooks!*

Is your church or community organization selling its own unique cookbook filled with favorite recipes of cooks in your area? If so, send your cookbook to Valerie Cheatham, Illinois Country Living, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708. Please include the price of your cookbook plus postage costs and the name, address and telephone numbers (both day and evening) of the cooperative member we should contact for more information.



*White Texas Sheet Cake* ^

- |                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Cake:</b>                      | <b>Caramel Pecan Frosting:</b> |
| 1 (18.25 oz.) pkg. white cake mix | 1 c. chopped pecans            |
| 1 c. buttermilk                   | 1/2 c. butter                  |
| 1/3 c. melted butter              | 1 c. light brown sugar         |
| 4 egg whites                      | 1/2 c. buttermilk              |
| 1/4 t. almond extract             | 2 c. powdered sugar            |
|                                   | 1/2 t. vanilla extract         |
|                                   | 1/4 t. almond extract          |

For cake, mix together all of the cake ingredients and bake in a greased sheet cake pan at 375 degrees for 20-22 minutes. Cool. To make frosting, place chopped pecans in a shallow pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 6 minutes or until lightly toasted. Bring butter and brown sugar to a boil in a 3-1/2 quart saucepan over medium heat, whisking constantly (about 2 minutes). Remove from heat and slowly whisk in buttermilk. Return mixture to heat and bring to a boil. Pour into bowl of heavy duty stand mixer. Gradually add powdered sugar, vanilla extract and almond extract. Beat at high speed until smooth (about 1 minute). Stir in pecans. Immediately spread over cake.

Visit [www.icl.coop](http://www.icl.coop) to see more Illinois Country Living recipes.

## L/CAEC Family and Friends Recipe Favorites

**Who:** Lawrence-Crawford Association for Exceptional Citizens

**Cost:** \$22 includes shipping

**Details:** hard-backed, ring bound

**Pages of recipes:** 148

**Send checks to:** L/CAEC, c/o Janice Zwilling, 2222 Lexington Ave., Lawrenceville, IL 62439 or call 618-943-4401.



### Grilled Pork Chops

- |                                      |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 4 pork bone-in rib chops, 3/4" thick | 1 c. fresh basil leaves, packed |
| 1 t. salt                            | 2 T. fresh lemon juice          |
| 2 garlic cloves, peeled              | 2 T. olive oil                  |
|                                      | 1/2 t. ground black pepper      |

With food processor running, drop in garlic to mince. Add fresh basil and chop; then add lemon, oil, salt and pepper, process to make a thin, wet rub. Spread both sides of meat with mixture. Let stand 15-30 minutes. Prepare medium hot grill. Brush grate clean and oil the grate. Grill chops over direct heat, turning once to medium rare doneness 5-6 minutes per side or until temperature reaches 145 degrees, followed by a 3-minute rest. Done takes 8-9 minutes per side and 160 degrees.

### Ham Salad

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 2 lbs. fully-cooked boneless ham, cut into large chunks | 1/4 t. seasoned pepper  |
| 1 c. sweet pickle relish                                | 3-5 hard-cooked eggs, peeled and chopped                                |
| 1 c. mayonnaise   | Toasted French bread slices   |
| 1 T. celery seeds                                       | Fresh parsley leaves or small sweet pickle halves as garnish (optional) |
| 1-1/2 t. yellow mustard                                 |   |
| 1 t. refrigerated horseradish                           |   |
| 1 t. fresh lemon juice                                  |   |

Process ham in batches in food processor until coarsely ground, stopping to scrape down sides as needed. Place ground ham in a bowl; stir in pickle relish and next 6 ingredients. Fold in chopped eggs. Serve on toasted bread slices, if desired.



### Baked Parmesan Mushrooms

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1-1/2 lbs. baby bella or crimini mushrooms, thinly sliced | 3 cloves garlic, minced                               |
| 3 T. olive oil  | 2 t. dried thyme                                      |
| 1/4 c. freshly squeezed lemon juice                       | 1/4 c. grated Parmesan                                |
| Zest of 1 lemon   | Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste |

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Lightly oil a baking sheet or coat with nonstick spray. Place mushrooms in a single layer onto the prepared baking sheet. Add olive oil, lemon juice, lemon zest, garlic, thyme and Parmesan; season with salt and pepper to taste. Gently toss to combine. Place in oven and bake for 12-15 minutes, or until browned and tender, tossing occasionally. Serve immediately.



Recipes prepared, tasted and photographed by Valerie Cheatham. For more recipes and photos go to [www.icl.coop](http://www.icl.coop). Questions? Email [finestcooking@aiec.coop](mailto:finestcooking@aiec.coop).

 Visit [www.icl.coop](http://www.icl.coop) to see more Illinois Country Living recipes.

# Things homeowners goof-up

## Do-it-yourself is not always the best idea

What's the first thing you do when you want to improve the comfort of your home and save money on your monthly utility bills? Like most people you start with Google to get more information. You get unlimited details, plans and suggestions on what to do, how to do it, what products to use, and companies to hire or DIY (do-it-yourself). If you happen to mention your project to friends, family or coworkers, you automatically get their advice and experiences. I am not saying homeowners should not do their homework before spending good money, but I sometimes wonder what they were thinking?

The following are snapshots of projects I've seen in homes and hope you can learn from these mistakes.

**A common mistake** – In homes with fireplaces, more times than not the damper in the fireplace is left open year-round. This allows heated air to flow up and out the chimney causing a significant heat loss in the winter, drafts and making the home dry in the winter, and humid in the summer. When not in use, close the damper.

**Dead air space** – A thin insulation batt was installed in the wall cavities, and a one to two-inch air gap was intentionally left between the insulation and drywall because the homeowner heard dead air space was a good insulator. When using my infrared camera, it looked like there was no insulation. Dead air spaces are NOT good insulators!

**New home, high utilities** – A well-built home going through its first winter had 2x6, foam-insulated exterior walls, insulated basement walls, and geothermal heating and cooling. Great so far, then I got in the attic. There was poorly installed R13 fiberglass batt insulation installed on the attic floor – in Illinois you



*“Shake & Rake Insulation” has a cute name, but it doesn't perform very well. It was invented to appeal to the homeowner do-it-yourself market. Check with a professional installer and ask for cellulose insulation.*

should have R49. I asked the homeowner when they were going to finish insulating the attic. He proudly told me that he was done and he insulated the attic himself. The person at the “Big Box” store told him that having more than R13 in the attic was a waste of money!

**Dry home** – The home was really dry in the winter, so I was hired to determine the problem. When I arrived at the home on a cold December day, one window in every room was open at least an inch, a cold mist vaporizer was running in each room, plus a whole-house steam humidifier was installed on the furnace. They told me that they liked the fresh air in the winter. I told them about minor recommendations and they were happy to know there wasn't anything else they could do short of closing the windows to add more humidity.

**Bags of insulation in the attic** – In the attic, I found dozens of huge garbage bags stuffed full of batt insulation sitting on the attic floor and little insulation installed on the floor beneath them. The homeowner

told me he brings the insulation home from work and puts it in the attic for insulation. I told him he would need to remove insulation from the bags and install it on the attic floor. Currently, the heat is flowing up and around the bags of insulation.

**Makes me smile every time** – I was called to a home where I did an energy evaluation a few months earlier. The owner told me he insulated the attic but wanted to show me. When we got in the attic, there it was, one new bag of cellulose insulation still in the bag sitting in the middle of the attic floor. I asked where the other 79 of 80 bags were he was to blow into the attic? He misunderstood. ☹



**Have questions?**  
Brian Kumer can be contacted at [brian\\_kumer@yahoo.com](mailto:brian_kumer@yahoo.com).



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# HUMBLE AND KIND

## Finding a life balance



**H**ardworking, honest, passionate, generous, positive, present, a role model, friends, family and faith. These are all words from the top-10 list Amy Smith used to describe her father Jon Lang, the 2016 Illinois Country Living Father of the Year and Rock Energy Cooperative member.

“I’m flattered by this, but the biggest honor for me was to know my daughter thought enough of me to send in a nomination,” says Lang. “For those that didn’t get this ‘title,’ take the time to thank your kids because you did something right if your kids think enough of you to do that.”

Jon grew up in Beloit, Wisc. and was encouraged by his father, who was a firefighter, to become one as well. He always wanted to farm, like his uncle, but he lived in town and there wasn’t much land available. He didn’t really want to be a firefighter but took the exam and was hired by the Rockford Fire Department. Jon discovered he really did enjoy that line of work, but still wanted to farm. He helped his uncle on his hog farm, but it wasn’t the same as having his own.

He and his wife Jane looked all over Winnebago County for a farm but had no luck. They found a small house in the country that was surrounded by farmland and planned to move into it. On a whim, or maybe it was God’s timing, Jon stopped by the neighbor’s farm and told him he would be interested in buying the 20 acres surrounding the house if he ever decided to sell it.

As it turned out, the farmer knew Jon’s grandfather was thinking about retiring. A couple of days later he called Jon and offered to sell his entire farm, house and all. Jon and Jane bought the farm and moved in. With the help of his father, Jon was able to construct some new farm buildings and remodel others. Jon and Jane built a new house on the property and raised their two children, Amy and Michael, there. They named the farm, A.M. Farms, after them.

At the fire department, Jon worked 24 hours on, and 48 hours off, and in 1985, became a paramedic for the department. He came to the realization

that he was serving as “God’s hands helping someone out of a bad situation. Sometimes I would be successful and save them and sometimes it was time for them to go to Him,” he says.

“To be able to hang my fire coat up at the end of a shift, and come back out here to the farm, I realized just how blessed I really was. It helped me keep things in proper perspective with the farm, and the life cycle of caring for crops and animals and nurturing them. It was a good balance. I tell people it helped me keep both of my oars in the water at the same time.”

During a fire department building inspection at the Rock River Valley Food Pantry, Jon was surprised to learn that an average of 7,000 people were served monthly by the pantry – most of them for the first time. He felt compelled to help.

“As a firefighter, helping people was the name of the game,” Jon remarks. “I saw so many people that weren’t nearly as blessed as I was to have a freezer and cupboards full of food.”

At that time, hog prices were very cheap, about 10 cents a pound, and Jon offered to give pork to the pantry rather than selling the hogs. During sweet corn season, when he has more than he can sell, he brings the extra to the pantry rather than throwing it to his hogs. Jon has since joined the pantry’s board of directors and feels fulfilled by helping those who have fallen on hard times.

When he began raising hogs, he had four sows and they farrowed twice a year. Now that he has retired, after 30 years on the Rockford Fire Department, the hog operation has expanded. He now has 45 sows and they farrow every two weeks. He has a partnership with Eickman’s Processing Co. in Seward, to provide them with hogs. He sits down with them once a year to look at the price of pork, agree on a price, and they settle that year’s contract with a handshake. Eickman’s likes the quality of the pork Jon provides, and has even won awards for the hams and bacon produced.

From the time they were each two years old, Amy and Michael followed Jon around on the farm. Michael still helps his father care for the animals, plant the corn, soybeans and wheat, and wants a farm of his own. Jon’s plan is for Michael to take over the farm once he decides to retire.

The next generation has also picked up that baton as Amy’s 19-month old son, Rutger, follows his grandfather around while doing chores or, better yet, riding on the tractor! Rutger has boots and a hat like grandpa’s, and beams when he sees Jon. The pride in Jon’s eyes is evident as well.

Jon admits to not always having his priorities straight, but believes the best gift Jane ever gave him was introducing him to the Lutheran faith. It took a large burden off of his shoulders and helped put things in proper balance

– faith first, then family and friends.

“It works for everyone,” he explains. “But, it depends on what point you are in your life.”

There is a new Tim McGraw song, *Humble and Kind*, that Jon really enjoys. It has the line, “once you get where you are going, turn around and help the next one.” Jon says, “I really like that song, but my philosophy is to not wait until you get where you’re going. Turn around right now and help that person; they may need it now. If I’m so focused on where I want to go, I may miss an opportunity to help someone who needs it. Walk side by side with people; you never know when you will see God’s face and can take the opportunity to help out.”

To read Jon’s nomination letter, and all of those received, go to [www.icl.coop/letters2016](http://www.icl.coop/letters2016).

*Jon Lang’s philosophy on having a happy, healthy soul?*

## BE A PIG.



- B Believe** God loves you.
- E Excellence** Strive for excellence, not society’s excellence but being your best every day.
- A Attitude** The one thing you have control over is your attitude, and how you respond.
- P Passion** Have passion for what you do.
- I Integrity** Be a man of your word.
- G Gratitude** Be grateful for His many blessings.

# Helping others helps you and other parting words of advice

It has been six years since I began writing this column. During that time, I have had the pleasure of interacting with many of you outside the confines of this page. In fact, there were times when so many of you responded, I had a very difficult time keeping up! I have to say I loved every minute of it.

You see, in helping others I was able to better myself. I think that is universally true. No one can know everything, and that's especially true in the technological world. In answering your questions, I was able to stretch my own abilities and expand upon my knowledge base. I've always been a bit of a technophile—I expect that will always remain true.

But now the time has come to move on to other endeavors. Right around two years ago, I accepted a job as the General Manager of Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. in Flora. You may have noticed the update in the little picture at the bottom of the page. Prior to that change, I worked directly for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives that publishes Illinois Country Living magazine. It's a hard thing to give up this column, and the interaction that goes along with it.

For the sake of my new cooperative family, I must do so.

Don't worry though! There is a replacement in mind for you. I believe he will be introducing himself next month, and I have every confidence in his ability to answer your questions while providing good insights into upcoming technology issues and trends.

If you would indulge me though, I would like to leave you with a few parting words of advice:

1. Most of the time, the operating system you choose has very little impact upon your home use of



your computer. I'm sorry to say it, but for those who self-describe themselves as "Apple people" or "Microsoft people," the gap has pretty much closed. Of course, there are some minor exceptions, and the business world is an altogether different beast, but for home users just choose whichever one you feel most comfortable using. You'll find these days you can pretty much get what you want done with either platform. So remember, it's about you the user. The rest will fall in line.

2. While anti-virus software is important will not keep your computer completely safe. That's a terrible thing to write isn't it? Probably one of the biggest misconceptions out there is that having an anti-virus suite installed on your computer will prevent you from getting infected, and even take care of any infection you happen to get. The fact is, these programs only prevent against "known threats." That means there is an inherent lag in protection against new viruses and malware. And, even worse, if you don't keep updated, that lag gets larger and larger. So, for the most part keeping your computer safe is going to require a bit of savvy on your part. That brings me to my last point.

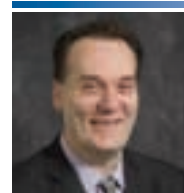
3. Don't click random things! When you receive an e-mail, instead of clicking the link sent to you, just do a quick search online for some of the keywords in the link. More often than not, you're going to see others have already posted something about the site in question. If you receive something from your bank, don't use the link provided! Just go to your bank's website like you normally would. Be smart about how and what you are doing online. The basis of almost every scam out there lies in the burgeoning ease with which we have come to expect to use technology. Take a moment and go about things just a little differently. You will not regret it. I assure you!

There are so many more words of advice I could offer, but I am going to leave those for the next guy. It has been a pleasure helping you all of these years.

*Sincerely - Ed*

 **Reply Online**

**Have a question or comment? Visit [www.icl.coop](http://www.icl.coop) and click on Powered Up to respond. Your response might even be included in a future column.**



**Ed VanHoose** is the EVP/GM at Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. in Flora

**edv@ceci.coop**



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**How the contest works:** We will choose two random entrants to receive either prize.

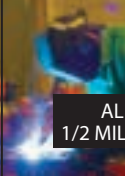
**Rules:** The contest is open to any Illinois electric cooperative member, 18 years of age or older. The winner will be notified by July 8, 2016. For full terms and conditions, visit [www.icl.coop/faqs](http://www.icl.coop/faqs).

**How to enter:** Enter online at [www.icl.coop/entertowin](http://www.icl.coop/entertowin).

**Deadline for submission:** Entries must be submitted online by June 30, 2016.

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# Chocolate runs

You can feel a nostalgic ambience as you step into the doors of Lagomarcino's and see the long glass cases of brightly colored candies and a multitude of hand dipped chocolates. Look a bit further and the handcrafted dark mahogany wood of the original back bar, with its shelves of soda and sundae glasses, and the counter and round stools of the soda fountain grab your attention.

It doesn't take a great leap of imagination to see young couples dressed in '40s fashion sitting in one of the dark high-backed wooden booths holding hands and sharing a handmade Coke or ice cream soda. Two straws, please!

Not much has changed at Lagomarcino's in the 100-plus years since it opened its doors, including the white 1918 Cassini terrazzo tile floor with the blue snowflake pattern.

It all began with Angelo and wife Luigia immigrating from Italy to Moline in 1908, and opening a confectionary. They sold candy, tobacco, ice cream, and also had a luncheonette. The couple lived above the store with their three children,



"By not changing, we  
always remain different."

-Tom Lagomarcino, Sr.



From left to right, Beth Lagomarcino, Tom Lagomarcino, Lisa Ambrose.  
Photo taken at Village of East Davenport location. Photo by Greg Boll.

# in their blood

by Valerie Cheatham

Charlie, Mary and Tom Sr., and all were involved in the business.

The story goes that in 1918 a peddler, selling hard candy and other sweets, came into the store. He told Angelo he had the perfect recipe for a hot fudge sauce and persuaded him to buy it for \$25. That was a lot of money back then, and to say Luigia was less than pleased is putting it lightly! Angelo convinced his wife the sauce would be a perfect topping for their ice cream. And, as they say, the rest is history.

The delectable sundae of homemade vanilla ice cream, fresh whipped cream and a cherry, is served in a glass dish, no plastic here, with a small pitcher of its famous hot fudge that can be drizzled on top as you eat. It is still a customer favorite.

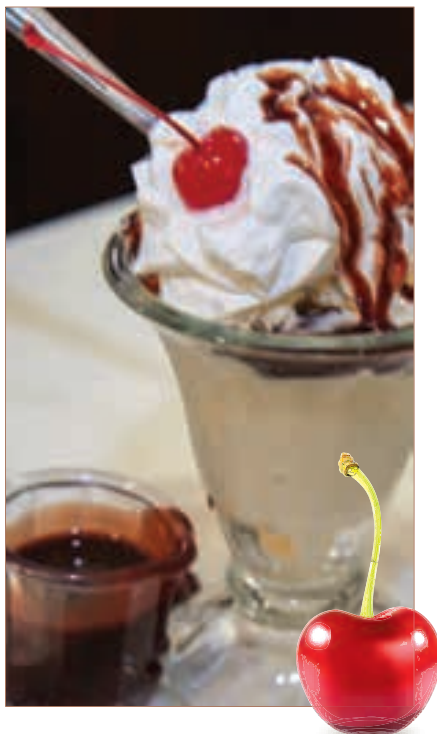
In 1938, Charlie bought the Meadowbrook Candy Company, which was going under due to the Depression. Meadowbrook Candy was known nationally for its chocolates, and the same recipes used there are what Lagomarcino's still uses today. Charlie was the chocolatier of the family, along with his cousin Joe.

One of those candies, rarely seen in other stores, is sponge candy. It is light and crisp, with a molasses/caramel flavor and dipped in dark or milk chocolate. It can't hold up to heat and humidity so it's only available October to June.

Tom Sr. was the ice cream maker in the family and cranked out thousands of gallons in his lifetime. The luscious 12 percent butterfat ice cream is still handmade, one small batch at a time. Ten flavors are available on any given day, along with seasonal favorites such as fresh peach in the summer and peppermint stick in the winter. They now have 20-25 flavors in their repertoire.

With the help of his six children, Tom Sr. and his wife Betsy ran the business after both of his siblings passed away. In 1981, Beth Lagomarcino felt

herself being drawn back to the store, so she left her teaching career and returned to manage it. Her brother Tom Jr. and sister Lisa, followed. They can't really explain it other than to say, "chocolate is in our blood."



In 1997, they opened a second location in Davenport, Iowa, just across the Mississippi River from Moline. With 10 children between the three of them, some of the fourth generation are working in the stores as well.

Over the years, word has spread about this generations-old soda fountain. It has been featured in magazines such as *Food Finds* and *Saveur*. However, in February 2006, Lagomarcino's received a call notifying them they had been nominated for the coveted James Beard Foundation Award, named after the chef and food writer. Unbeknownst to them, Rick Nelson, a food writer for the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* had visited the store and nominated them

for the award. Since 1998, the foundation has recognized regional, locally-owned restaurants and designated them as America's Classics.

The family had previously never heard of the award but, after a bit of research, were shocked to learn it was like "the Oscars of the food world." The family was quite honored, and in May 2006 family members attended the black tie ceremony in New York City. None of the family had been to the city before, so they went to Ellis Island where their grandfather and grandmother had entered the country. "It was just overwhelming," says Beth Lagomarcino. "We may have sat on the same bench where they sat. To just feel what it must have been like for them to see the Statue of Liberty was so touching."

Lagomarcino's luncheon menu has not changed much over the years. The light Swedish rye bread on their sandwiches is made from a 70-year-old recipe, and they hand make their own ham, tuna and chicken salads. Rarely will you find a liver sausage sandwich or a banana nut salad on a menu, but you will there. You can wash it all down with a Green River, Coke or other soda, all are made by hand at the soda fountain.

You can order malts, ice cream sodas, egg cremes or a variety of specialty sundaes including the Quad-Cities Special, made to look like an old-fashioned paddlewheel boat. It consists of a split banana, a scoop of their rich vanilla and strawberry ice creams, smothered in strawberry and homemade chocolate sauces, real whipped cream, a maraschino cherry, and nuts with a paddle wheel and steam shaft made of cookies. It delights young and old alike!

Whether you are just passing through the Quad Cities on vacation, business or just taking a drive, Lagomarcino's is well worth the stop. It is open 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday-Saturday. For more information, visit [www.lagomarcinos.com](http://www.lagomarcinos.com).

JUNE 9 - 12, 2016



## 38th Annual Superman Celebration

**WHERE:** Metropolis

**CONTACT:** Trish Steckenrider, M.S.

**PHONE:** 618.524.5025

**EMAIL:** director@metropolistourism.com

Metropolis, home of Superman, celebrates the “Man of Steel” the second week in June with celebrity autograph sessions, celebrity question and answer sessions, the Comic Artist Gallery, a film festival and contest, and Superhero Costume Contest. In addition to the Superman related activities, there is a 5k race, bike trek, car show, nightly entertainment, food and fun. For a schedule of events go to [www.supermancelebration.net](http://www.supermancelebration.net) or 800-949-5740.

JUNE 10 - 12, 2016

## Martinsville Heritage Days & Draft Horse, Mule and Haflinger Show

**WHERE:** Martinsville Fairgrounds, 620 S. York St., Martinsville

**COST:** Free

**CONTACT:** Martinsville On The Move

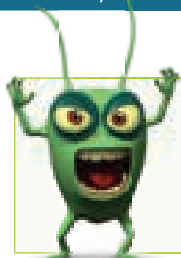
**PHONE:** 217.232.3232

**EMAIL:** mville62442@gmail.com

Heritage Days will kick off with Friday Night of Bluegrass featuring Firebox, at the Linn Park Amphitheater one block east of downtown Martinsville. All events on Saturday and Sunday will be held at the Martinsville Fairgrounds. These events include Heritage Days Draft Horse, Mule and Haflinger Show, a qualifying show for the North American Six Hitch Classic, Classic Cart, and the Haflinger and Draft Pony Championship Series. There will also be a Heritage Market with handmade, repurposed, antique and vintage items, horse farming demonstrations, live music each day, A Little Bit of Country concert Saturday night featuring Battle Creek, food vendors, children’s activities including barrel train rides, horse-drawn wagon rides, a corn hole tournament, artist demonstrations, a community church service, and more.



JUNE 4, 2016 @ 10 – 11 A.M.



## Civil War Tech – Germy Germs

**WHERE:** Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. 6th St., Springfield

**CONTACT:** Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

**COST:** Free

**EMAIL:** shanta.thoele@illinois.govt

What exactly are germs and how do they spread disease? Learn about the fascinating and sometimes gross lives of germs. Ages 8-12 welcome. Reservations required. Civil War Tech is a monthly program series presented by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum thanks to generous support from AT&T. Join us as we merge science and history, two areas of study not often united but undeniably connected. Families are invited to see first-hand the science and innovation of Civil War technology.

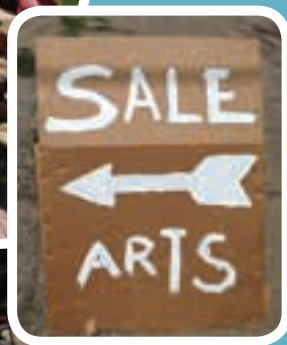
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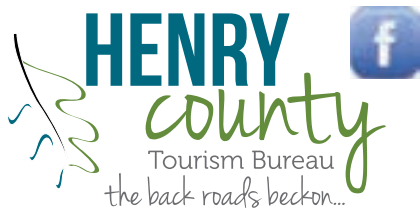
**Geneseo Music Fest**  
June 17-19

**Midsommar Music Fest- Bishop Hill**  
June 18

## COMING UP:

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**Kewanee Prairie  
Chicken Festival**  
July 15 – 17



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