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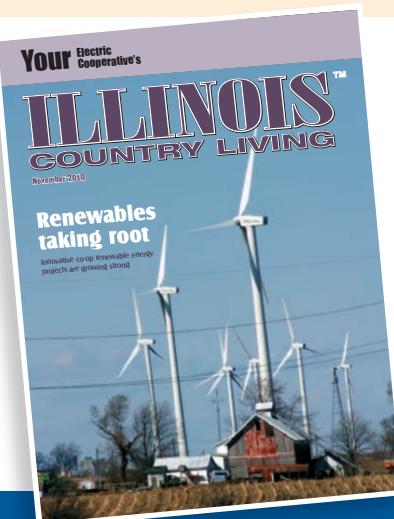
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**COVER STORY** ■ PAGE 10



## RENEWABLES TAKING ROOT

Adams Electric Cooperative, Camp Point, is the latest co-op to add wind energy to its power supply.

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# ILLINOIS™ COUNTRY LIVING

Volume 68, No. 7, November 2010

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# The little car that could

*Co-op test of plug-in car finds the promise is real, but issues still exist*

If you read the newspaper or watch the news regularly these days, you're hearing about the coming wave of cars and trucks that will be powered by electricity. Some of these cars will be 100 percent electric vehicles, or EVs, like the Nissan Leaf. Others are plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, or PHEVs, that will operate on electricity or gasoline.

There are, however, a lot of questions about these vehicles.

How will they perform? Will mileage estimates be accurate? Will they last or be really expensive to maintain? Will the batteries last? Will they pay for themselves? Will enough people buy them so the auto manufacturers can build them at reasonable prices?

If you've attended your electric cooperative's annual meeting over the past couple of years, chances are you've seen the Illinois electric co-ops' Toyota Prius PHEV. The vehicle has also been featured in pictures and articles in this magazine.

This car has been part of a U.S. Department of Energy study on plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, in partnership with other electric co-ops around the country, since 2008. That's when we converted our 2007 Prius to a plug-in hybrid car. Basically, we just added an additional lithium-ion battery pack.

This battery weighs 180 pounds and it's installed in the spare tire compartment. It is charged with electricity from a normal 120 volt outlet. This offers the possibility for greatly enhanced fuel mileage.

So, after two years of PHEV operation, what have we learned?

- These vehicles perform great for the kind of driving that most folks do every day — going to work or school. Our PHEV has an electric range of about 40-50 miles or so, depending upon speed and type of driving, etc. This range gets most people where they need to go daily, then the battery can be recharged at home.

- We've found the plug-in battery improves mileage at highway speeds, usually by 25 percent or so. But

when we take a long trip, the battery is fully spent within 40-50 miles. Then our car operates like a normal Prius with an extra 180 pounds (the battery).

- Attaining 100 miles per gallon with a Prius PHEV is possible. But only if the driver operates the car reasonably and the car is kept plugged in when it isn't being operated. I tell people that with our Prius PHEV, 80 miles per gallon can be easily attained, without

much change in driving style.

- Cold weather is tough on all batteries, especially these hybrid batteries. We all have experienced some pretty cold weather the past two winters. Our PHEV is parked outdoors virtually 100 percent of the time. When operating our vehicles during the cold winter months, mileage suffers greatly — about 25 to 30 percent. The hybrid batteries seem to have survived the cold pretty well, but the mileage drops considerably in the winter.

- The plug-in battery is only effective if it's plugged in. It will be best for everyone if electric car charging is done off peak, when electricity usage is relatively low. For most people this is at night. This will help keep energy costs as low as possible.

- So far, after two years of operation on the plug-in battery and three years on the regular Prius hybrid battery, everything seems normal. We've had no problems with these batteries and they still operate just like new.

- Unfortunately, the "payback" for our project is incredibly long. We were an "early adapter" in using this technology. When these cars can be driven off a dealer's lot, they'll be more affordable and the payback should be more realistic.

Personally, I've also learned that my own driving style has changed over the past couple of years. I have now purchased a hybrid electric vehicle for my own, personal use. In town, I consciously try to drive in a way that maximizes the electric mode of the car. When I'm on the highway, I also drive the speed limit or close to it. The fuel mileage is greatly improved from my normal driving style of the past, and I'm probably safer! ■



**"It will be best for everyone if electric car charging is done off peak, when electricity usage is relatively low."**

- These vehicles perform great for the kind of driving that most folks do every day — going to work or school. Our PHEV has an electric range of about 40-50 miles or so, depending upon speed and type of driving, etc. This range gets most people where they need to go daily, then the battery can be recharged at home.
- We've found the plug-in battery improves mileage at highway speeds, usually by 25 percent or so. But

**John Freitag is the vice president of operations for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, [jfreitag@aiec.coop](mailto:jfreitag@aiec.coop), 217-241-7973, [www.aiec.coop](http://www.aiec.coop).**



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# CURRENTS

NEWS • LEGISLATION • TRENDS • RESEARCH

## Grants help G&T co-op upgrade coal plant efficiency

Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) received grant money in October to help fund a \$3.6 million energy efficiency and reliability improvement to its Lake of Egypt Power Plant Unit 4. Providing wholesale power to seven Illinois distribution co-ops, the generation and transmission co-ops' improvements will save 26.68 GWh, reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and save the average co-op member between \$8.89 - \$14.82 a year.

SIPC will receive an Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Coal Demonstration Grant award for \$1.5 million, and a \$455,000 Electric Energy Efficiency Grant from the State Energy Plan, which is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The project will replace motors for forced draft and booster fans with the latest generation of Variable Frequency Drives (VFD) to increase



reliability and efficiency. The VFDs will allow the fan motors to operate at a lower power level resulting in a reduced cost to produce electricity.

"On behalf of SIPC, I wish to thank DCEO for their generous grant to assist in installing state-of-the art controls at our Marion Generation Plant (Unit #4). I also wish to thank our local State Legislators: Senator Forby, and Representatives Reitz, Phelps and Bradley, for their support in making this project become a

reality," said SIPC President W. Scott Ramsey. "Clearly, this is an excellent example of how private industry and government can work together to improve energy efficiency, reduce emissions, and provide job improvement in southern Illinois. SIPC prides itself on continuing to provide reasonably priced wholesale power from one of the cleanest-burning plants in Illinois and the new project will make that even more so."

## Interior Department approves first U.S. offshore wind farm

After almost a decade of federal study and analysis, the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) approved the \$1 billion Cape Wind project on April 21, allowing the first U.S. offshore wind farm to move ahead. Cape Wind is a 130-turbine wind power project off the Massachusetts coast. It will have a maximum electric output of 468 megawatts (MW), with an average anticipated output of

182 MW. Those in opposition to the project say it would disturb culturally significant sites on the seabed floor and would visually interfere with their cultural activities. But Secretary Salazar disagreed, noting that Nantucket Sound is far from pristine, already featuring undersea power lines, communication towers along its coasts and the visual impacts associated with aviation, shipping, fishing and recreational

boating. Those visual impacts are far greater than the impacts of wind turbines located at least 5.2 miles from the mainland, according to Secretary Salazar.

In approving Cape Wind, DOI noted that there are other offshore wind power proposals in neighboring northeastern states, all seeking to tap the region's estimated offshore wind power potential of 1 million MW.

## Energy Star-crossed consumers

The New York Times revealed some manufacturers of household appliances were testing products for Energy Star-certification internally instead of using independent laboratories. In response, Energy Star ramped up oversight of product ratings and by the end of the year had revoked the Energy Star label for some refrigerators while raising the bar for the efficiency expected from TVs.

Energy Star rated products are generally in the top 25 percent. For example, qualified refrigerators must be at least 15 percent more efficient than the minimum federal efficiency standard. Energy Star-rated TVs consume 3 watts or less when switched off, compared to a standard TV, which consumes almost 6 watts on average.

To learn more about the Energy Star program, visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

## Renewable biogas energy workshop

If you are interested in learning about turning animal waste into an energy resource, then mark your calendar for November 23 event hosted by Eastern Illinois Electric Cooperative. A workshop open to swine producers, electric cooperatives, county and municipal government planning members, engineers and energy and environmental consultants, and advocates of biogas energy recovery and combined heat and power (CHP) will be held at the Ford-Iroquois Extension Office, 912 W. Seminary, Onarga, Ill.

Attendees will learn about:

- Anaerobic digester and biogas energy recovery technologies and concepts
- Steps to developing a successful biogas to energy project
- Experiences and lessons learned from a swine producer with a working project
- Connecting to the grid, available support and resources

For more information contact Sam Rinaldi - 312-996-2554 or [samr@uic.edu](mailto:samr@uic.edu), or go to [www.midwestcleanenergy.org/easternilliniobiogas2010/](http://www.midwestcleanenergy.org/easternilliniobiogas2010/)

## Earl Struck honored

The late Earl W. Struck, former President/CEO of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, was honored at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Region 5 and 6 meeting in Minneapolis, Minn. on Sept. 15. Sherry Struck accepted the NRECA Regional Award for Outstanding Service on behalf of her late husband.

In presenting the award, Wally Wolski, NRECA President and Wyoming Director, spoke of Struck as a champion of rural electric cooperatives and of his great work and dedication. Struck was nominated by Phil Carson, Tri-County Electric Cooperative Director and Illinois representative on the NRECA Board of Directors. In his nomination letter Carson stated, "Earl personified the co-op values of integrity,



accountability and commitment to community. He was a great judge of character and was blessed with outstanding common sense and political acumen - traits that made his counsel frequently consulted on the state, regional and national levels. Earl Struck's legacy strengthens our cause as cooperatives."

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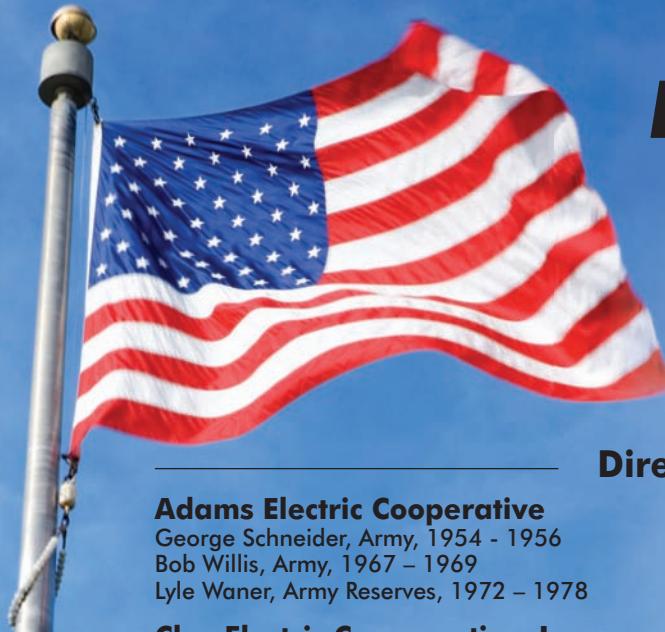
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/s/John Lowrey



# Paying tribute

**The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives wants to thank all veterans who have served our country for their valiant efforts in war and peace times. We appreciate our freedoms because of your sacrifices ... and we would like to recognize directors serving on rural electric cooperative boards throughout the state of Illinois who have also served in the military.**



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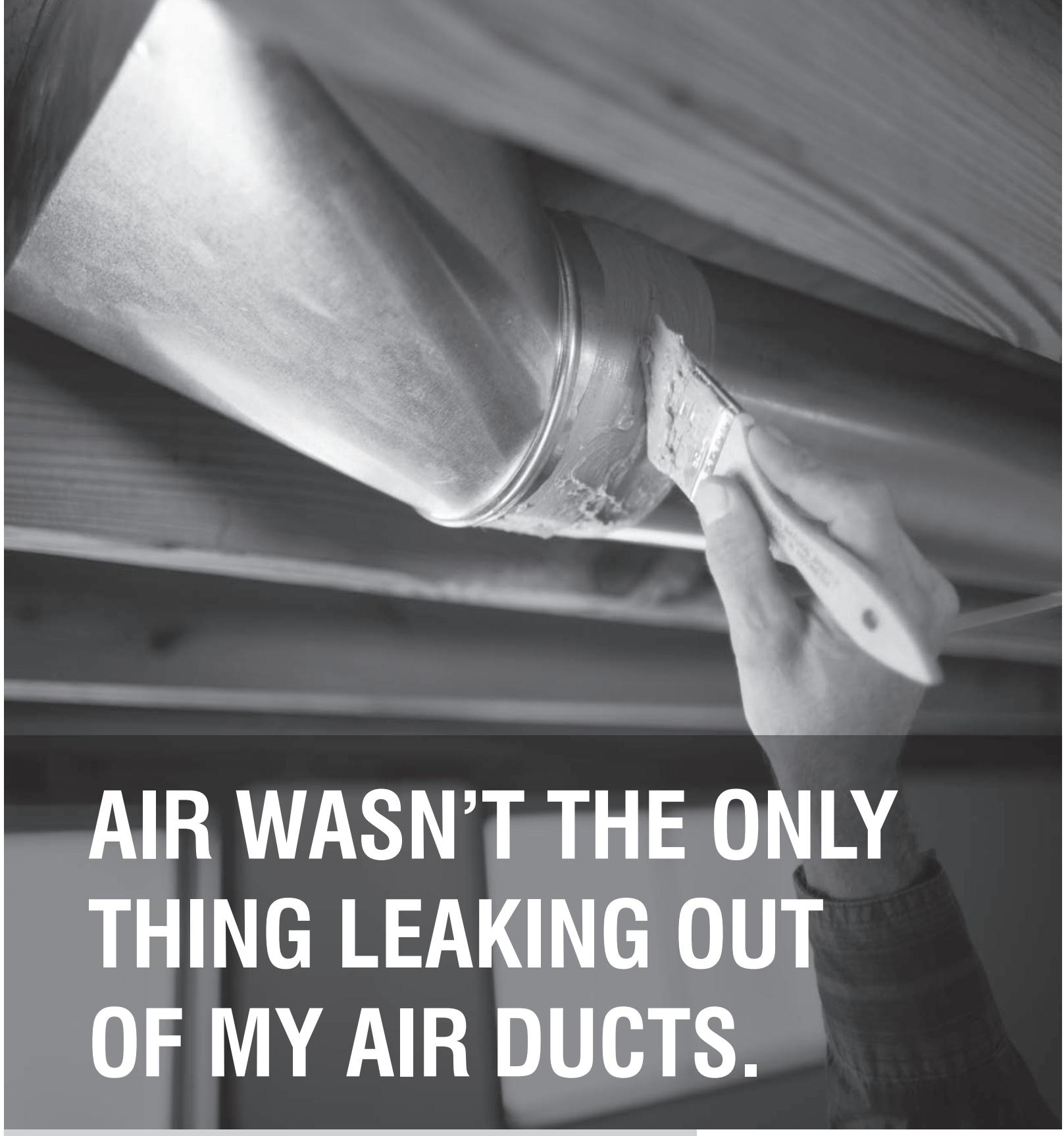
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# Renewables taking root

Innovative co-op renewable energy projects are growing strong

*By John Lowrey*

**E**lectric co-ops across the country and in Illinois are adding renewable energy technology in very innovative ways. From biomass to wind, co-ops are meeting, and in some cases, beating state renewable energy standards even though many are not required to by government mandates called renewable portfolio standards.

"Illinois electric cooperatives have been proactive when it comes to energy innovation, energy efficiency and renewable energy projects," says Duane Noland, President/CEO of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. "The most recent example is Adams Electric Cooperative, which just installed the first utility-grade wind turbine in Adams County. That follows Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative's wind turbine, which was installed years ago, and was one of the first in the country. And recently I'm sure people have seen the Gob Nob wind turbine along I-55 near Farmersville that was installed by Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative."

Electric co-ops, in some cases, are exceeding renewable portfolio standards (RPS) laws passed by 29 states and the District of Columbia that require investor-owned utilities, competitive electric generation suppliers, as well as some municipal electric systems and electric cooperatives (in 18 states) to add increasing amounts of "green" electricity to their retail power supply mix (ranging from 10 percent to 30 percent) by a certain date (most between 2018 and 2025).

Adams Electric Cooperative, Camp Point, held an open house for its new 900 kW turbine on October 7. At the ceremony, Quincy Mayor John Spring said, "This is the future. By the year 2025, Ameren and others will have to have

more renewable supplies. I know the smaller co-ops are exempt from that, but I know that the co-ops are actually working quicker on this than the other utilities. I think the members of Adams Electric are pleased to see this go up."

The turbine, similar to one installed in 2009 by Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative, will produce enough electricity for 200–300 homes. President of Adams Electric's board James Benz of Quincy said, "Four years ago the Adams Electric Cooperative board began discussing whether or not it might fit our needs here. We looked for spots with good wind and found several near some of our substations. This is a direct drive turbine, which is relatively new technology and it has half the moving parts of other turbines, and it will generate power at a lower wind velocity. It is projected to have lower maintenance costs, too."

The new wind turbine will supplement current power supplies and act as a hedge against rising fuel costs. But like many renewable energy projects where the "fuel" is free, the turbine would not have been financially feasible without \$1.5 million in Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs), which is essentially an interest free loan, plus a \$150,000 grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation and \$250,000 from the Department of Commerce and Economic Development.

Promoting and using geothermal energy is one of the other areas where Illinois electric cooperatives excel. For example, in 2009, nearly half of the homes built on Adams Electric's lines had geothermal heat pumps installed.

One problem with wind or solar is the energy generated is not always available when needed. That's why co-ops are also looking for ways to add more hydropower, biomass, land-

fill methane gas and even coal-bed methane options. These green energy sources can be counted on 24/7.

Biomass, which uses plant material and animal waste, supplies 15 times as much energy in the United States as wind and solar combined, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Biomass generation is carbon neutral with the burning of biomass generating CO<sub>2</sub> and the growing of biomass energy fuels absorbing this CO<sub>2</sub> at an equivalent or greater level.

Prairie Power, Inc., the generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative serving 10 Illinois distribution cooperatives, has been investigating converting its 22-megawatt coal generation plant at Pearl to a renewable biomass generation facility.

Randy Fisher, Plant Superintendent for the Pearl Generation Station, says, "We are currently burning a mix of 5 percent waste corn and



*Adams Electric Cooperative's Pigeon Creek Wind Turbine is the newest co-op owned renewable energy project. Board members (l-r) Rick King, Rebecca Barlow, James Benz, General Manager Jim Thompson, Alan Acheson and Robert Willis began discussing the project four years ago. Co-ops like Adams Electric are proactively adding renewable energy sources without government mandates called renewable portfolio standards.*

*The Gob Knob wind turbine, built on top of an abandoned pile of coal waste called a gob pile, was installed in December 2009. During construction an estimated 150 people worked on the Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative wind turbine. Caruthers Excavating and Bulldozing in Waverly, for example, worked on the foundation and road leading to the turbine.*

95 percent coal in the boilers with little negative impact on the operation of the plant or its generation output.” Waste seed corn must be destroyed because it hasn’t been sold, will not germinate as well and has been treated so it can be consumed as feed.

A 100 percent conversion of the Pearl coal-fired plant to biomass would net 17-20 megawatts of renewable energy, or about 7 percent of Prairie Power’s annual sales. Fisher says the biomass fuel could include corn stover, tree trimmings, switch grass or other biomass energy crops or biomass waste.

Permitting is an issue for biomass plants and the EPA’s plan to tighten emission limits for new and existing boilers has virtually put a halt to any new biomass generation plans.

Jo-Carroll Energy, a distribution cooperative in Elizabeth, planned to build an 80 megawatt biomass plant, but those plans are on hold until this new EPA regulation issue is resolved.

Fisher says Prairie Power has also investigated opportunities to invest in and develop other renewable energy generation resources including run of the river hydroelectric facilities and wind generation facilities. The capital investment and timelines to develop these renewable generation resources have been significantly greater than PPI’s estimates for its biomass conversion project at Pearl.

The sixth cooperative principle is cooperation among cooperatives and Prairie Power, along with Southern Illinois Power Cooperative – a G&T serving seven Illinois co-ops, Wabash Valley Power Cooperative – a G&T serving three Illinois co-ops and Jo-Carroll Energy have joined with other co-ops across the country to form the National Renewables Cooperative Organization (NRCO). This new co-op acts as a clearinghouse for renewable development opportunities by aggregating its members’ renewable energy needs. Prairie Power was the most recent to join and is the 25th member of the renewable energy co-op.

Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) was one of the founding members of the National Renewables Cooperative. Scott Ramsey, President and General Manager of SIPC says, “We are currently reviewing a number of possibilities, including coal-bed methane and biomass. One of the renewable resources we are most closely studying is hydropower, and we believe that there are untapped resources in southern Illinois and along the Ohio River.”

Wabash Valley Power is also a member of the NRCO and has been a leader in developing landfill gas methane generation projects. Decomposing waste in landfills generates methane gas and the co-op uses a total of 51 Caterpillar engines at several landfills to generate 41 megawatts of baseload generation.

Dairyland Power Cooperative,





*Electric co-ops are helping spur development of "cow power" by turning waste to methane gas. Dairyland Power Cooperative is generating 3.3 megawatts using this waste to energy process.*

which is the G&T serving Jo-Carroll Energy, has been very innovative in developing renewable energy from the waste created at rural dairies. This "cow power" is created using anaerobic digesters that turn the waste into methane gas. Dairyland Power currently has eight dairy methane digesters, is involved in five wind projects and three landfill gas projects.

The Twin Groves Wind Farm east of Bloomington, which is in Corn Belt Energy's service territory, started production in 2007. Now, the project sprouting among the corn and soybean fields, could grow from 705 wind turbines to more than 2,772 in five years, according to the Illinois State University's Center for Renewable Energy. Most of the energy produced will go to the Windy City of Chicago. This wind project along with 20 others in Illinois have combined to add about \$8.3 million to farm income for leases, \$18 million in property taxes, created nearly 10,000 construction jobs and will support nearly 500 permanent jobs. Energy production has grown from 50 megawatts in 2003 to 1,847.7 megawatts in 2010, according to the Illinois Wind Working Group, which is part of the Illinois State University's Center for Renewable Energy.

To support jobs in this growing field Illinois State University created a renewable energy major for students. Other programs are starting at Illinois community colleges across the state.

Rural Electric Convenience

Cooperative recently helped out with the production of a video overview of what working on commercial grade wind turbines is like. The video features the co-op's technician Jeff Lancaster at the co-op's Gob Nob wind turbine and will be used by Danville Area Community College.

With the recent increase in commercial wind farm development, rural landowners are searching for guidance before signing a wind lease with developers. One resource titled "Wind Turbine Lease Considerations for Landowners," is available from the North Dakota State University Extension Service. The free PDF version can be downloaded by linking to [www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/agecon/market/ec1394.pdf](http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/agecon/market/ec1394.pdf). Other resources can be found at the Illinois State University's site [www.RenewableEnergy.ilstu.edu/wind](http://www.RenewableEnergy.ilstu.edu/wind).

Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative in Winchester was the first distribution co-op in the nation to install a wind turbine. Bruce Giffin, General Manager, says that although wind is free, wind energy is still more expensive than traditional energy sources. He says, without the grants the co-op received, the turbine wouldn't have been financially feasible. Sean Middleton, Manager of Engineering for the co-op, says the capacity factor for the turbine (the ratio of output over time) has been about 30 percent. "We originally anticipated a 10 to 15 year payback

if maintenance and taxes don't go up significantly," he says.

Maintenance costs will be a factor with any facility. Early on the Illinois Rural Electric's wind turbine had a run in with a lightning storm and one of the blades had to be patched. That's just one example of the type of jobs this new industry is creating. It requires a contract employee who's not afraid of heights and is good at patching fiberglass wind turbine blades.

More and more electric cooperative members are also intrigued with the idea of generating their own electricity with renewable energy sources. There are tax incentives that make it more attractive, but the cost can still run from several thousand dollars to more than \$50,000, and home green energy projects can take as much as several decades to produce a return on investment.

Noland says, "For those members that would like to learn about renewable energy options, they should talk to the staff at their local electric cooperative. There is a brochure available with a worksheet that will help you work through the economics to see if it is a cost effective option and what kind of payback that renewable project might have. Most co-ops have a net metering policy that can help. And you also need to discuss the installation's safety and technical issues with your local cooperative."

SAFETY  
IS  
THE  
FAIR

# Be cheery, but cautious

*Turkey fryers and Christmas decor top warning list*

To ensure a cheerful holiday season, the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is encouraging consumers to be extra careful when cooking holiday meals and decorating their homes.

"Cooking fires are more likely to occur on Thanksgiving than on any other day of the year," said Dave DeFrates, Acting State Fire Marshall. "The incidence of home cooking fires is roughly three times the daily average on Thanksgiving."

## *Turkey Fryer Dangers*

The dangers of home cooking fires are greatly increased due to the relatively recent popularity of turkey deep frying appliances. OSFM joins the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the American Burn Association (ABA) in discouraging the use of turkey fryers to prepare holiday meals because of the risk of injuries and fires associated with these unique devices.

Tests have shown that many of the fryers have a risk of tipping over, overheating, or spilling hot oil, leading to fires and burns. This deep-frying cooking process requires that up to five gallons of oil be heated to high temperatures before lowering the turkey into the device.

If you prefer fried turkey during the holidays, the safest options are to order a pre-cooked bird from a local supermarket or restaurant, or hire a professional caterer.

## *Holiday Decoration Safety*

Christmas trees are among the most popular decorations of yuletide, but they also can be deadly. On average each year, live and artificial Christmas trees are the ignition sources of 300 reported U.S. home fires resulting in 14 fatalities, 21 injuries and \$16.8 million in property damage, according to NFPA.

In addition, 44 percent of Christmas tree fires are caused by an electrical problem or malfunction. To be safe with trees and decorations, OSFM urges consumers to:

- Regularly check your tree for fresh, green needles. Trees that have dried out over several weeks' time burn faster than those that are fresh and well-watered. Remember to keep your tree watered at all times.
- Make sure your tree stand holds at least 1 gallon

of water. As a general rule, stands should provide 1 quart of water per inch of trunk diameter. The average 6-foot tree has a 4-inch diameter trunk and can consume as much as 4 quarts or 1 gallon of water per day.

- Keep your tree at least 3 feet from fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, heating vents and other sources of heat. Don't place the tree where it blocks an exit.
- Look for the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) mark on light strings, electrical decorations and extension cords. The UL mark means that UL engineers have tested representative samples of the product for foreseeable safety hazards.
- Ensure outside lights, decorations and extension cords are rated for outside use. Lights intended for indoor-only use bear green holographic UL marks. Light strings intended for indoor and outdoor use bear red holographic UL marks.
- Carefully inspect each electrical decoration — new or old — before plugging it in. Cracked sockets, frayed, bare or loose wires can cause a serious electric shock or start a fire. Replace damaged items with new, UL-listed decorations.
- Don't use staples or nails to hang light strings. Instead, purchase plastic hooks or clips designed for hanging light strings.
- Check packaging to determine the maximum number of strings that may be connected or use this rule of thumb: Connect a maximum of three midget (push-in bulbs) light strings or up to 50 bulbs of light strings with the screw-in bulbs (C7s and C9s).
- Don't overload extension cords by plugging in too many decorations.
- Turn off all electrical lights and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.
- Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions for electrical decorations.

For more information, please visit the agency's Web site at [www.state.il.us/osfm](http://www.state.il.us/osfm) or NFPA at <http://www.nfpa.org/>.

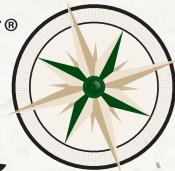
**Louis G. Pukelis** is the communications officer for the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal. He can be reached at 312-814-0778.



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**"For common bulbs, they need a cold treatment that allows the bulbs to develop roots and the buds to break dormancy."**

## Bring on the blooms

*Start spring bulbs for winter 'forcing'*

**M**ost people only think of tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and other spring bulbs as things you plant sometime during October and November and hope they come up the following spring if all goes well.

And most gardeners have great intentions when it comes to buying bulbs they actually will get planted, though many hurry up during the colder parts of November to get them in the ground.

But that leaves many laggards behind, folks with good intentions but maybe short memories or lack of time.

That's where "forcing" the bulbs comes into play.

Forcing is a term that sounds vaguely like a bullying term. In some ways, it sort of is. The goal is to make the plant do something it normally wouldn't do, usually at the sake of living a longer life.

The main principle is that plants are potted, given a cold treatment more than turning a shoulder to them, and then "forced" into bloom. In most cases, after successful forcing, the plants are discarded. Gasp!

Many tulip varieties, crocuses, daffodils, squills and hyacinths are easily forced. Varieties most easily forced are usually marked as such in store displays and catalogs. Of course, some are quite common.

Paperwhite narcissus is just one of many of the forms with multiple flowers per stem and great fragrance for a daffodil. Little is needed except a container to force these bulbs. Sadly, they don't do well outdoors unless you're in the South.

And then there is the amaryllis. Like the paperwhite, all you need to do is pot them, set them in bright sunlight, keep the soil moist, sit back and wait. In

two to four weeks, you'll have blooms. These are the easy bulbs.

For common bulbs, they need a cold treatment that allows the bulbs to develop roots and the buds to break dormancy. The bulbs then need a warm treatment indoors to force them into bloom.

To pot the bulbs, place one-fourth inch of gravel in the bottom of 6- or 8-inch flower pots that have drain holes. Then loosely fill the pots about half way

with a well-drained soil. Humus sold in most garden centers should work. Or, use half garden soil and half coarse sand.

Do not firm the soil; this ruins the drainage and bulbs usually rot.

Set the bulbs so that they are just touching each other, and the pointed tips are just showing above the rim of the pot. This seems backward as the natural tendency is to plant the bulbs deep. Don't.

You may need to adjust the amount of soil so that bulbs are at the right height. Firm the bulbs into the soil; then add soil between the bulbs to within about 1/2 inch of the pot rim. Water thoroughly.

Store the potted bulbs where they will receive cool weather for about 13 weeks. A basement beverage refrigerator or even the household refrigerator if you can get away with it, an unheated garage, a cold frame, or a protected place outside is satisfactory. Make sure everyone in the household knows that the bulbs are not to be disturbed.

You can even stack the pots on top of each other until you see new growth shooting out of the bulb.

If outdoors, store potted bulbs under mulch such as leaves, straw, or sand, snug against the house or garage. The mulch needs to be 8 to 12 inches deep to prevent the soil from freezing and the pots from cracking. If possible, place the pots in a shallow ditch or hole and cover with the mulch. You may need to use screen wire to keep out mice and other animals.

Indoors or outside, it is important the pots be protected from freezing and kept moist.

In February, bring the pots in a week apart, keep at room temperature of about 50 degrees F for one week then increase the temperature to 60 degrees F. Flowers will develop in about four weeks, hopefully dissipating winter's gloom over the next several weeks.

After the bulbs are done blooming, keep them around and plant them outdoors as soon as possible and keep your fingers crossed. Nine times out of 10, they've spent their energy and won't survive.

But the one-tenth that does will bloom the following years. ■

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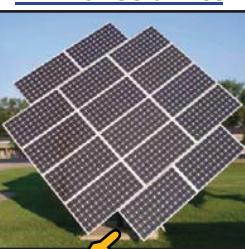


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## Efficiency commandment # 6: Thou shalt be thankful

*Appreciating the benefits of electricity and shopping for efficiency*

**A**ctually this column doesn't relate to energy efficiency as much as it does to energy itself and specifically, electricity. Because we will be celebrating the Thanksgiving holiday this month, I thought it would be good to think about the value of electricity and all the great things it does for us.

I just love this time of the year. The leaves are beautiful and the air is comfortable and refreshing. We are entering the holiday season and some of you have already missed the biggest buck deer you've ever seen. And Thanksgiving will soon be here. We have so much to be thankful for in this country.

A few months ago in one of my columns I wrote that I consider electricity to be a blessing. And I really do feel that way. Let me list many of the ways that we use electricity at home. This is in no particular order. Here we go:

Television, ceiling lights, ceiling fan, lamps, refrigerator, range/oven, range exhaust fan, garbage disposal, dishwasher, microwave, mixer/blender, coffee maker, toaster, crock pot, electric knife, stereo/radio, clocks, bath exhaust fan, heating/cooling system, clothes dryer, clothes washer, iron, cell phone charger, hair dryer, curling iron, DVD player, security lights, battery chargers times three, Christmas lights, heating pad, vacuum cleaning system, garage door opener, freezer, ceiling fan, computer, printer, security system, copy machine, electric water heater, waffle iron, electric tools, video games, humidifier, dehumidifier, well pump, sump pump, air compressor, paper shredder, circulating hot water system, ice maker, treadmill, pool pump and equipment, electric guitar ...

Now, to help you solve that ever-present argument of which appliances use the most electricity ... here's your homework assignment. You can figure it out with this simple formula:

Wattage × hours used per day × days used per year ÷ 1000 = Kilowatt-hour (kWh) consumption per year. Just multiply that kWh result by your local electric rate to get the dollars and cents figure. You can usually find the wattage of most appliances stamped on the bottom or back of the appliance or on its nameplate.

I know there are many more but I am getting ready to drive to Jasper, Ark. to enjoy this state's

beautiful scenery. Instead, I will ask you to finish the list with some of the other ways we use electricity at home. If you think you might have the longest list, call me at my office at 501-653-7931 and share it with me. The caller with the longest list will get a very nice early Christmas present.

Speaking of Christmas, think about switching to the new light emitting diode (LED) Christmas lights. A traditional string of lights will use 36 watts of power, but a string of LD lights only uses 5 watts. And they'll last 10 times longer. Untangling them is still a problem I can't help you with.

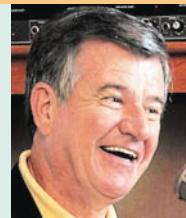
Oh, and since we are at the beginning of Christmas, here is a list of tips to keep in mind as you head to the mall or Wal-Mart. Thanks go to my friends at the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association for sharing this. During this Holiday Season let's all be a little more thankful and do a little more sharing. ■

**"A traditional string of lights will use 36 watts of power, but a string of LD lights only uses 5 watts."**

### Top 10 energy saving tips for a happy holiday season

10. Ask for Energy Star rated appliances and CFLs.
9. Skip the electronics and get the kids board games.
8. Do not preheat the oven when cooking large pieces of meat.
7. Lower thermostats and replace HVAC filters every 30 days.
6. Check windows and doors for leaks and seal them.
5. Install timers on outdoor lighting displays.
4. Decorate with LED lights.
3. Adjust power settings on video game consoles to the power saving feature.
2. Vanquish energy vampires with a smart power strip.
1. Follow Scrooge's example: skip the holidays! (Not recommended for children).

Doug Rye, the "Doctor of Energy Efficiency-the King of Caulk and Talk" can be heard on several different Illinois radio stations. Or you can go to his Web site at [www.douglyre.com](http://www.douglyre.com), e-mail him at [info@philliprye.com](mailto:info@philliprye.com), or call 501-653-7931. You can also sign up for a free newsletter and order his "how to" videotapes.



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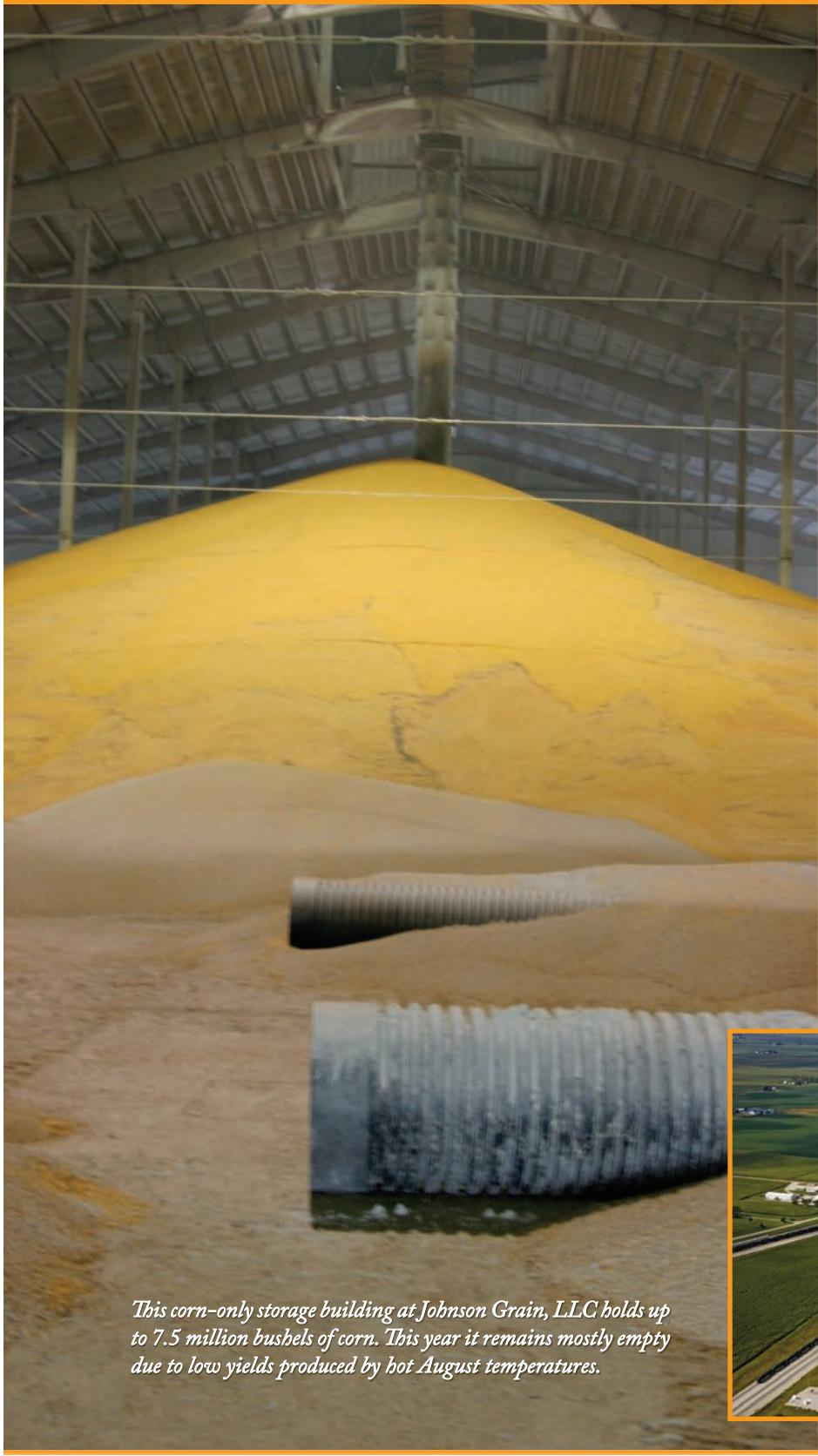
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# A Growing Industry



*This corn-only storage building at Johnson Grain, LLC holds up to 7.5 million bushels of corn. This year it remains mostly empty due to low yields produced by hot August temperatures.*

## Ethanol production plants continue to sprout up around Illinois

By Kaleigh Friend

When driving through Illinois, you're definitely going to see one thing: corn fields. But what kinds of possibilities are presented by these rows and rows of corn? Second only to Iowa in corn production, Illinois is a large part of the ethanol production industry. Enough ethanol is produced to replace up to 35 percent of the state's reliance on petroleum.

More than 600 million bushels of corn go to ethanol production every year in Illinois. This growing industry has created over 1,000 full-time jobs within the state, along with countless other indirect jobs.

Corn Belt Energy Cooperation's largest electrical load, Patriot Renewable Fuels (PRF), has been a part of the movement to produce ethanol since they opened in 2008. PRF has operated at maximum capacity since its opening, producing more than 100 million gallons of ethanol every year.

*Johnson Grain, LLC is the largest corn-only facility in the area with a storage building that can hold up to 7.5 million bushels, a bunker that can hold 2 million bushels and uprights that can hold up to 1.4 million bushels. Superintendent Peter Chaplain said much of the corn they had recently sent out by rail was going to ethanol plants in Texas.*



An economic development group in Henry County started PRF in Anawan. Since inception PRF has created about 50 full-time jobs for the community and many other indirect jobs in the areas of farming and transportation. This plant produces more than just ethanol. Some of the valuable co-products of the ethanol production process include Dried Distillers Grains (DDGs) and carbon dioxide. DDGs are used as feed for livestock. Its usage offsets the use of 1 billion bushels of corn as feed, while carbon dioxide is used in the food and beverage industry for freezing processes and for the carbonation of beverages.

Producing ethanol reduces our reliance on foreign oil, has less of an environmental impact and creates a local demand for corn, according to Tricia Braid-Terry, Communications Director for Illinois Corn Growers Association.

Some vehicle manufacturers have released flex-fuel vehicles that use E85, which is a blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent ordinary unleaded fuel. Along with a reduced carbon footprint, flex fuel vehicle owners who use E85 will notice a better price at the pump.

While it is true that E85 users will notice a bit of a loss in fuel economy, the wholesale price is, on average, 60 cents cheaper per gallon. The use of E85 also prevents four tons of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere each year and reduces harmful ozone gasses by 20 percent. There are now over 220 gas stations in Illinois that offer E85. "The ethanol industry will continue to grow," said Braid-Terry.

However, opponents argue using corn for ethanol production puts a strain on corn as a food source and that it takes more energy to produce ethanol than it generates. As for putting a strain on corn as a food source, Braid-Terry points out that higher yields have satisfied the demands created by ethanol production. Higher yields are a result of genetically engineered seeds and advanced technology allowing more precise application of fertilizer,

From 2001-2007, an average of 2.64 gallons of ethanol were produced per bushel of corn. Now the average is at 2.78 gallons, with some plants producing upwards of three gallons per bushel of corn.

When it comes to energy usage, it takes 1 British thermal unit (BTU) to produce ethanol. That is equivalent to the amount of energy needed to heat one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit. Ethanol, in turn, creates 13.2 BTUs, and therefore creates 292 percent more energy than it takes to produce it, according to the Renewable Fuels Association.

While producing ethanol can cause corn prices to rise, Judd Nulting, Project Coordinator at Patriot Renewable Fuels, says this is a good thing because it makes farmland more valuable. Consumers shouldn't notice this price shift at the grocery store; the value of corn in a box of Corn Flakes cereal has only increased from four cents to six cents in the last few years.

One group that's excited about the use of E85 is the American Lung Association in Illinois. Matt Marcum, Manager of Environmental Programs, said that the association is very pro-E85 because it is a good alternative to petroleum in terms of emissions, air quality, and lung health. Mobile source emissions are one of the major air quality issues this group deals with. They have initiated a program in co-

ordination with the Illinois Corn Marketing Board, Ford and GM to promote E85 by sending out \$10 fuel coupons.

The coupons are accepted at over 150 retailers in Illinois.

Ethanol impacts Illinois' economy by over four billion dollars each year. These direct impacts are the total economic stimulus within Illinois realized from the services, salaries and value of the commodities produced by the plants.

The ethanol industry has also created many jobs at the 12 ethanol plants in the state and has created a stable market for corn. On a national spec-

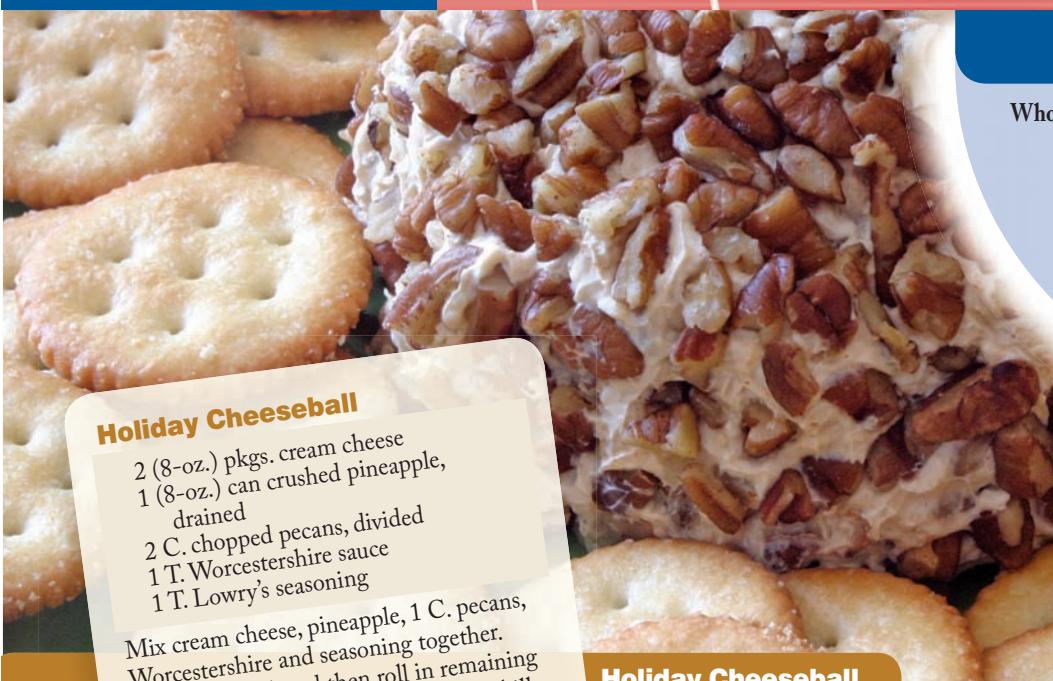


Mike Johnson with Tri MJ Farms unloads corn at Johnson Grain, LLC in Waverly, Ill.

trum, there are tax credits for ethanol that go to the fuel blenders, which are in the petroleum market and separate from the ethanol production plants. If the ethanol tax credit was lost, it would result in a loss of over 100,000 jobs and a decrease in corn demand and thus corn prices.

Overall, the ethanol industry is growing. As vehicle manufacturers produce more flex-fuel vehicles, the demand for ethanol will increase. The Illinois Corn Growers Association, along with others, pushed for a shift to a 15 percent standard ethanol and petroleum blend. The EPA recently approved a 5 percent increase on the usual 10 percent ethanol and petroleum blend we see at every pump in Illinois.

At the end of the day, what's the verdict on ethanol? It's a choice drivers have to make based on car performance, fuel efficiency, and price difference. Whatever the choice, the ethanol industry will continue to grow as more people "go green" and more ethanol production plants sprout up around the country.

**Holiday Cheeseball**

2 (8-oz.) pkgs. cream cheese  
1 (8-oz.) can crushed pineapple,  
drained  
2 C. chopped pecans, divided  
1 T. Worcestershire sauce  
1 T. Lowry's seasoning  
Mix cream cheese, pineapple, 1 C. pecans,  
Worcestershire and seasoning together.  
Roll into a ball, and then roll in remaining  
pecans. Cover with waxed paper and chill  
in the refrigerator until ready to use.

**Russian Stroganoff**

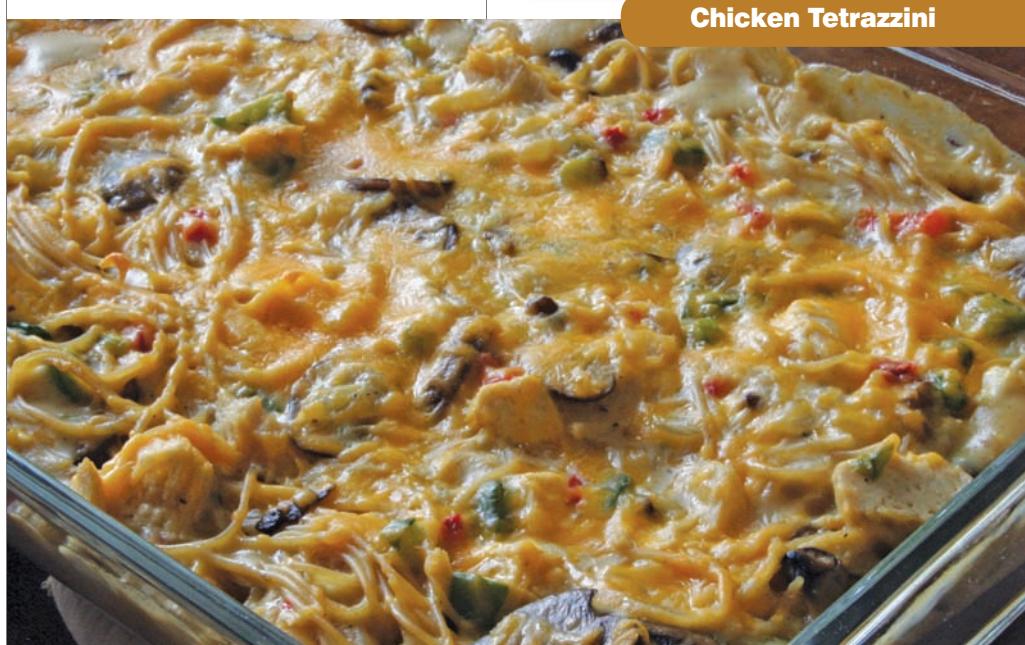
6 T. butter (no substitutes)  
½ med. onion, diced  
2 lbs. beef tenderloin, thinly sliced  
into 1-inch strips  
½ lb. fresh button mushrooms, sliced  
Salt, to taste  
Freshly ground black pepper, to taste  
1/8 tsp. nutmeg  
1 C. full fat sour cream at room  
temperature  
2 oz. vodka  
Splash of gin  
Klusky noodles  
Paprika

Melt 3 T. butter in a heavy skillet. Add the onion and cook slowly until translucent. Remove to a bowl and set aside. Turn the heat to medium-high and add beef to the skillet. If very lean, add a splash of cooking oil and brown meat on all sides. Remove the beef and set aside in the bowl with the cooked onion. Drain skillet and add the remaining 3 T. butter. Let butter melt, but not brown. Stir in mushrooms. Cook over medium heat for 3 minutes. Season with salt, pepper and nutmeg. Whisk the sour cream and add to the skillet, but do not allow it to boil. Return the beef and onions to the skillet long enough to heat through. Add a 2-oz. shot of vodka and a splash of gin. Work into sauce and serve on a bed of cooked Klusky noodles. Dust with paprika.

**Holiday Cheeseball****Easy Caramel Rolls**

1 (24 count) pkg. frozen dinner rolls  
1 tsp. cinnamon  
1 C. pecans, chopped  
1 stick margarine, melted  
½ C. packed brown sugar  
1 (3-oz.) pkg. butterscotch cook pudding

Arrange rolls in the bottom of a well-buttered bundt pan. Sprinkle with cinnamon and nuts. Stir the brown sugar and dry pudding mix into melted butter until smooth. Pour mix evenly over rolls. Seal tightly with foil. Cover with a towel and leave on the counter overnight. Bake at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes the next morning.

**The Fruit Of The Spirit**

**Who:** St. Mary's High School Youth Group of Anna, IL

**Cost:** \$21, including shipping

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

**Pages of recipes:** 181

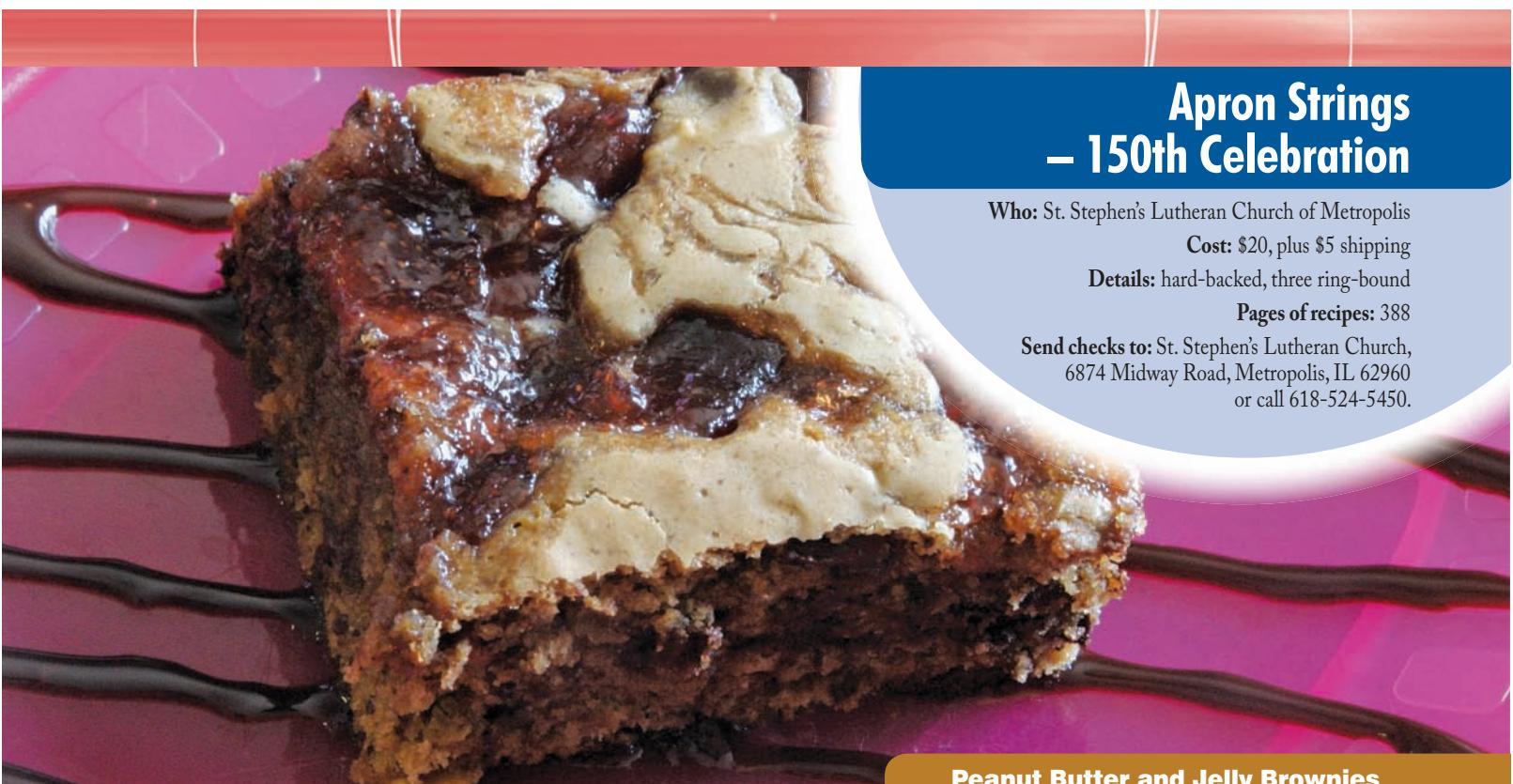
**Send checks to:** LaDonna Basler,  
1390 Campground Road, Anna, IL 62906  
or call 618-833-4769.

**Chicken Tetrazzini (below)**

2 C. chicken cooked and diced  
½ C. green pepper, diced  
1 sm. onion, chopped  
1 pkg. sliced fresh mushrooms  
¼ C. butter  
1 (15-oz.) can cream of chicken soup  
1 (15-oz.) can cream of mushroom  
soup  
1 (14-oz.) can evaporated milk  
2 T. pimento  
7-oz. spaghetti noodles, cooked and  
drained  
Salt and pepper, to taste  
½ C. cheese, grated (your choice)

Sauté pepper, onion and mushrooms in butter in a pan. Mix chicken, sautéed vegetables, soups, milk, pimento, spaghetti and salt and pepper together. Pour into a 9x13-inch baking pan. Top with cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

**Chicken Tetrazzini**



## Apron Strings — 150th Celebration

**Who:** St. Stephen's Lutheran Church of Metropolis

**Cost:** \$20, plus \$5 shipping

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

**Pages of recipes:** 388

**Send checks to:** St. Stephen's Lutheran Church,  
6874 Midway Road, Metropolis, IL 62960  
or call 618-524-5450.

### Peanut Butter and Jelly Brownies

#### Autumn Cider Punch

1 (32-oz.) bottle apple juice  
1 (32-oz.) bottle cranberry juice  
1 (6-oz.) can frozen orange juice  
concentrate, thawed  
1 (6-oz.) can frozen lemonade  
concentrate, thawed  
1 (1-liter) bottle ginger ale or lemon  
lime soft drink, chilled

Stir together apple juice, cranberry juice, orange juice concentrate and lemonade concentrate. Chill. Stir in ginger ale or lemon lime soft drink just before serving. Serve over ice.

#### Holiday Pumpkin Dip

1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened  
½ C. canned unsweetened pumpkin  
1 clove garlic, minced  
1 tsp. ground cumin  
1/3 C. minced dried beef  
1/3 C. chopped red bell pepper  
2 T. minced fresh parsley  
2 T. minced fresh onion  
1 tsp. chili powder  
¼ C. chopped green bell pepper  
2 T. lime juice

Beat together the cream cheese, pumpkin, garlic, onion, cumin and chili powder until smooth and creamy. Stir in the beef, green and red peppers and lime juice. Spoon into a small, pretty bowl and sprinkle with cilantro and chill.

#### Chocolate Spiced Pork Chops

2 T. firmly packed brown sugar  
1 T. Italian seasoning  
2 tsp. onion powder  
1-1/2 tsp. unsweetened cocoa powder  
1-1/2 tsp. garlic powder  
1 tsp. paprika  
½ tsp. ground red pepper  
½ tsp. cumin  
½ tsp. salt  
½ tsp. ground black pepper  
4 (1-1/2-inch thick) bone-in  
pork chops  
1 T. vegetable oil

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl, combine brown sugar, Italian seasoning, onion powder, cocoa, garlic powder, paprika, red pepper, cumin, salt and black pepper. Rub mixture evenly over pork chops. In a large cast-iron skillet, heat oil over med-high heat. Add pork chops and cook for 3 minutes per side. Place skillet in the oven and bake pork chops for 8 minutes.

Visit [www.icl.coop](http://www.icl.coop) to see  
an archive of past  
Illinois Country Living recipes.

#### Peanut Butter and Jelly Brownies (above)

1 C. firmly packed brown sugar  
½ C. crunchy peanut butter  
¼ C. softened margarine  
2 eggs  
1 tsp. vanilla  
½ C. flour  
¼ tsp. salt  
6 squares Baker's semi-sweet  
baking chocolate, chopped  
½ C. strawberry jam

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Beat sugar, peanut butter and butter in a large bowl with an electric mixer on medium speed until well blended. Add eggs and vanilla; mix well. Add flour and salt; beat until well blended. Stir in chocolate. Line a 9-inch square pan with foil, with ends of foil extending over the sides of the pan. Grease foil. Spread batter onto the prepared pan. Drop jam by spoonfuls over batter; swirl with a knife to marbleize. Bake 35 to 40 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool in the pan. Lift dessert from pan, using foil handles. Cut into 24 squares to serve.

Photos by Catrina McCulley Wagner

# Powered Up



## In defense of self *Recovering from identity theft*

The July edition of Powered Up (<http://www.icl.coop/archive.htm>) discussed emerging Internet scams and how to recognize and avoid them. Since that time, many of you have questioned what to do should you already have fallen victim to identity theft. This edition will focus on solutions to the problem. You do have options. They just may require a little diligence.

First, you should be aware that you are not alone. Law enforcement, from local to the national level, takes identity theft very seriously. Probably the biggest advocate and information source for consumers regarding identity theft is the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). It is the only federal agency with both consumer protection and competition jurisdiction in broad sectors of the economy. The FTC has the resources necessary to help you connect with individuals who can assist you should you experience identity theft.

In a video produced by the FTC, Assistant Director Betsy Broder says, "We know that identity fraud, in its various forms has affected 10 million people in any given year, and what that means in dollars, is that it's a loss

to businesses of about \$50 billion. On top of that, victims of identity theft have spent \$5 billion trying to undo this harm."

That amount of loss definitely has a major negative impact on the economy. In order to combat identity theft, the FTC has come up with four steps that every victim of identity theft should take.

### 1. Place a fraud alert on your credit reports, and review your credit reports.

Fraud alerts can help prevent an identity thief from opening any more accounts in your name. Contact the toll-free fraud number of any of the three consumer reporting companies above to place a fraud alert on your credit report. You only need to contact one of the three companies to place an alert. The company you call is required to contact the other two, which will place an alert on their versions of your report, too.

### 2. Close the accounts that you know, or believe, have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.

Call and speak with someone in the security or fraud department of each company. Follow up in writing, and

include copies (NOT originals) of supporting documents. It's important to notify credit card companies and banks in writing. Send your letters by certified mail, return receipt requested, so you can document what the company received and when. Keep a file of your correspondence and enclosures.

### 3. File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission.

You can file a complaint with the FTC using its online complaint form; or call the FTC's Identity Theft Hotline, toll-free: 1-877-ID-THEFT (438-4338); TTY: 1-866-653-4261; or write Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580. Be sure to call the Hotline to update your complaint if you have any additional information or problems. By sharing your identity theft complaint with the FTC, you will

provide important information that can help law enforcement officials across the nation track down identity thieves and stop them.

### 4. File a report with your local police or the police in the community where the identity theft took place.

Call your local police department and tell them that you want to file a report about your identity theft. Ask them if you can file the report in

person. If you cannot, ask if you can file a report over the Internet or telephone. If the police are reluctant to take your report, ask to file a "Miscellaneous Incident" report, or try another jurisdiction, like your state police. You also can check with your state Attorney General's office to find out if state law requires the police to take reports for identity theft.

Following these four steps is a great start to recovering your identity. Be prepared to answer the same questions repeatedly, and keep a journal of your activity, including dates, times and names of the people with whom you speak. It may take some time, but with a little persistence, you will win back control of your identity.

**Ed VanHoose** is the Digital Communications Administrator/IT Manager for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in Springfield. He is a specialist in the IT field with over 12 years of experience working in leadership roles for technology based projects in Illinois and Missouri.



*Written and compiled by Ed VanHoose 217-241-7941 evanhoose@aiec.coop*

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- 4) Mail to: Illinois Marketplace, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708, by deadline.

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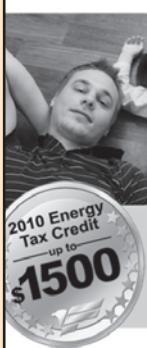
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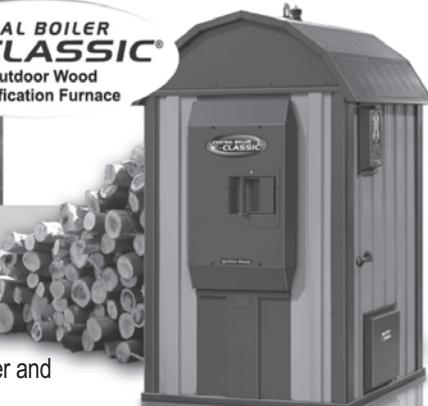
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# St. Louis Holiday Happenings

by Alexandra M. Newbern

**E**ach year in November and December, people begin to focus on the meaning of Thanksgiving and Christmas to begin planning ways to enjoy the celebrations of the holiday season. For many parents and grandparents there is an additional focus – creating long-lasting holiday memories and traditions for the kids

and grandkids. This year, take a trip to experience the merriment and atmosphere of St. Louis during the holidays!

"St. Louis is the perfect holiday destination as it snuggles visitors with the warmth of the festive season," says Donna Andrews, Director of Public Relations for the St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission. "There

are an abundance of holiday-related activities all family members can enjoy. From finding that perfect gift in one of many boutiques ... having breakfast with Santa and touring historic homes decorated for the season. St. Louis is a year-round destination, so visiting in November and December is sure to create memorable holiday experiences."

## Turkey Time Toots:

### St. Louis Thanksgiving Day Parade

**Date:** 11/25/2010

**Location:** Downtown St. Louis  
**Website:** [www.christmasinstlouis.org](http://www.christmasinstlouis.org)

*Kick-off the holidays watching the Midwest's best holiday parade! The parade begins at North 4th Street and Washington Avenue, proceeds South on North 4th Street to Market Street, continues west on Market Street and ends at 14th Street.*

### The Loop Holiday Walk

**Date:** 11/26/2010

**Location:** The Loop Neighborhood  
**For more information call:**

(314) 725-4466

**Website:** [www.visittheloop.com](http://www.visittheloop.com)

*Crafts, music, food, entertainment, a children's area and much more – sure to be fun for the whole family!*

### Winter Wonder Walk

**Date:** 11/21/2010

**Location:** Tilles Park at the corner of Litzsinger and McKnight Roads in St. Louis County

**For more information call:**

(314) 615-7275

**Website:** [www.stlouisco.com/parks/](http://www.stlouisco.com/parks/)

*Over one million twinkling lights and holiday scenes during a walk through Tilles Park. Concessions and photo opportunities with holiday characters are available.*

## Look at the Lovely Lights:

### Holiday Festival of Lights

**Date:** 11/19/2010

**Location:** Kiener Plaza in downtown St. Louis and Memorial Park in the St. Louis County Government Center in Clayton.

**For more information:**

call (314) 436-6500

[www.christmasinstlouis.org](http://www.christmasinstlouis.org)

*Christmas lights are simultaneously turned on at 6:30 p.m. in downtown St. Louis and downtown Clayton for the official start of the holiday season. Holiday activities and fireworks will be held at each location.*

### Way of Lights Christmas Display

**Date:** 11/19/2010 - 1/2/2011

**Location:** National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows.

**For more information call:**

(618) 397-6700

**Website:** [www.snows.org](http://www.snows.org)

*A drive through scenic fantasy of over one million lights that wind past electro-art sculptures, life-size figures and displays that depict the Christmas Story. A Christmas village, choirs, a Christmas tree display and horse-drawn carriage rides add to the festivities!*

### 25th Annual Winter Wonderland

**Date:** 11/24/2010 - 1/2/2011

**Location:** Tilles County Park, corner of Litzsinger and McKnight Roads in St. Louis County

**For more information call:**

(314) 615-7275

**Website:** [www.stlouisco.com/parks/](http://www.stlouisco.com/parks/)

*One mile of more than a million twinkling holiday lights fashioned into characters and festive scenes with a canopy of lights glistening throughout 75 acres of forest in Tilles Park in St. Louis County. Saturdays are reserved for horse-drawn carriages, but rides are also available daily.*





## Fun at the Fabulous Fox:

**Location:** The Fox Theatre in Grand Center  
**Tickets:** (314) 534-1111 **For more information call:** (314) 534-1678  
**Website:** [www.fabulousfox.com](http://www.fabulousfox.com)

**The Joffrey Ballet in Nutcracker**  
**Date:** 12/2/2010 - 12/5/2010

**A Christmas Carol**  
**Date:** 12/9/2010 - 12/12/2010

**Johnny Mathis Holiday Show**  
**Date:** 12/17/2010

**Cirque Dreams Holidaze**  
**Date:** 12/21/2010 - 12/29/2010



## Grand Garden Gazing:

**Location:** Missouri Botanical Garden, Ridgway Visitor Center  
**Website:** [www.mobot.org](http://www.mobot.org)  
**For more information call:** (314) 577-5100

**Holiday Wreath Exhibition**

**Date:** 11/20/2010 - 1/2/2011

An exhibition of unusual, magnificent wreaths created by some of the area's finest floral designers.

**Gardenland Express**

**Date:** 11/24/2010 - 1/2/2011

Watch model trains travel through a miniature landscape of living plants, small towns and rural dwellings along the Appalachian Trail. Twinkling holiday trees, snowflakes and over 600 colorful poinsettias and flowers surround the scene!

**Christmas Carols in the Garden**

**Date:** 12/4/2010 - 12/19/2010

Enjoy festive carols, Santa in his sleigh, chestnuts roasting on an open fire and a gingerbread house display. Meet Rudolph, join in family crafting activities and see the Gardenland Express display (included with special event admission).

**Victorian Christmas at Tower Grove House** **Date:** 11/23/2010 - 1/2/2011  
**Location:** Tower Grove House

See the Victorian country home of Garden founder Henry Shaw decked for the season. Enjoy storytelling on Saturdays at 11 a.m.

\*Note: Go to [www.explorestlouis.com](http://www.explorestlouis.com) to see a complete calendar of St. Louis events.

## U.S. Bank Wild Lights

**Date:** 11/26/2010 - 12/12/2010  
**Location:** The Saint Louis Zoo in Forest Park

**For more information call:**  
(314) 781-0900

**Website:** [www.stlzoo.org](http://www.stlzoo.org)

Stroll through the Zoo's enchanting holiday wonderland and enjoy thousands of colorful lights and seasonal sounds.

## Christmas at the Cathedral

**Date:** 12/3/2010  
**Location:** Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis

**For more information call:**  
(314) 533-7662

**Website:** [www.cathedralconcerts.org](http://www.cathedralconcerts.org)

This concert features the 120-voice Archdiocesan Adult Choir, 20-piece Orchestra, 70-voice Children's Choir and 5-octave Handbell Choir in the splendor of the Cathedral Basilica.

## St. Louis Holiday Magic

**Date:** 12/3/2010 - 12/5/2010  
**Location:** America's Center

**For more information call:**  
(800) 247-9791

**Website:** [www.stlholidaymagic.com](http://www.stlholidaymagic.com)

The family-friendly weekend show features unique shopping, dazzling holiday lights and decorations, indoor carnival rides and live entertainment.

## 8th Annual Breakfast with Santa

**Date:** 12/5/2010  
**Location:** The Magic House, St. Louis Children's Museum

**For more information call:**  
(314) 822-8905

**Website:** [www.magichouse.org](http://www.magichouse.org)

A pancake breakfast cooked by a pancake flipper extraordinaire, a special photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus, a craft and admission to The Magic House.

## First Night Saint Louis

**Date:** 12/31/2010  
**Location:** Grand Center Arts & Entertainment District

**For more information call:**  
(314) 289-8121

**Website:** [www.firstnightstl.org](http://www.firstnightstl.org)

A celebration featuring visual and performing arts, musicians, storytellers, dancers, magicians, actors and puppeteers. The grand procession starts at 5:30 p.m., leading the way to the main stage located at the intersection of Grand Boulevard and Lindell Avenue, for the opening ceremony at 6 p.m. Children's fireworks at 9 p.m. and Grand Fireworks at midnight.



**3, Snowflake Festival** at Glazebrook Park in Godfrey. 618-466-1483.

**3, The 20th Annual Home Tour - Three Centuries of Splendor** in Taylorville. 217-824-9447.

**3, Stockton Christmas Walk** in Stockton. 815-947-2878.

**3, Christmas Candlelight Tours** in Lerna. 217-345-1845.

**3-4, Hometown Christmas** on State Street in Downtown Belvidere. 815-547-4357.

**3-5, The Santaland Diaries** in Sullivan. 217-728-7375.

**4-5, Kankakee Kennel Club AKC Dog Show** at the Kankakee County Fairgrounds in Kankakee. 815-683-2393.

**4, Andover Christmas Walk** at Andover Lake Park in Andover. 309-476-8228.

**4, Home for the Holidays** in Elsah. 618-465-6676.

**4, Mistletoe Ball-A Victorian Holiday Dinner and Dance** at historic Turner Hall in Galena. 815-777-9129.

**4, Hometown Holly Day** at the Marshall Fire Department Building in Marshall. 217-826-9023.

**4, Taking Tea in Taylorville** at Taylorville Memorial Hospital Auditorium. 217-824-9447.

**4, Christmas Parade** in Downtown Metropolis. 618-524-2714.

**4, The 20th Annual Lights Fantastic Activities & Parade** in Carbondale. 618-529-8040.

**4-5, Lunch with Santa on Train** at the Wabash Depot in Downtown Monticello. 217-762-7921.

**4-5, Olde Alton Arts & Crafts Fair** at the Alton High School in Alton. 618-259-5660.

**4-31, Festival of Lights Drive-thru** on North 2nd Street in Marshall. 217-826-8087.

**10-25, Christmas in the Park,** Manner's Park in Taylorville. 217-824-5878.

**11, A Taste of Galena Progressive Dinner** in Galena. 815-777-0893 or [www.bestofgalena.com](http://www.bestofgalena.com).

**11-12, Bethlehem Walk** at the Christian Church of Manteno. 815-468-6468.

**11-12, Annual Christmas House Tour** in Golconda. 618-683-9702.

**12, Olde Tyme Christmas and Living History** in Metropolis. 618-524-9321.

**18, Night of the Luminaria** in Downtown Galena. 815-777-9050.

**31, First Night River Bend** at Lewis & Clark Community College in Godfrey. 618-468-5001.

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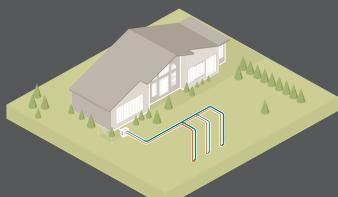
To be considered for inclusion, please submit events in the format used above. Preference is given to events sponsored by non-profit entities. Submitting an event is not a guarantee of publication. Photos are welcome, but will not be returned unless a self-addressed and stamped envelope is provided.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

**Deadline:** November 15 for February Events. **Mail to:** Illinois Datebook, PO Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708. **E-mail to:** [Lrigoni@aiec.coop](mailto:Lrigoni@aiec.coop)



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