

Sharing Success donations given to local organizations

Marbold Farmstead, Theatre in the Park and the Logan County Fairgrounds were chosen by our Board of Directors as recipients of this year's CoBank Sharing Success program, which matches donations made by Menard Electric to

charitable organizations.

We are members of CoBank, a cooperative lending facility.

"Concern for Community is one of our founding principles, and the Board is pleased to participate in the Sharing

Success program to support organizations, like the Marbold Farmstead, Theatre in the Park and Logan County Fairgrounds, that bring a true value to our local communities," said Menard Electric Board President Jay Frye.

Historic Marbold Farmstead Association \$4,000 donation

www.historic-marbold-farmstead.org

The Association loosely formed in 2009, was granted nonprofit status in 2011, and purchased the property, located on Route 29 in Greenview, in 2012, when restoration work began. Tours are given two Sundays a month in the summer, and two festivals are held each year. Charlotte Wohler, volunteer and past Board President, estimates 700 individuals visit each year.

"The ultimate goal is to restore the house and outbuildings to have a living history farm where we can educate current and future generations about farming and farm life in the 1880s-1910. In the future, we hope to be a site where visitors will see the farm as it once was, with restored barns, livestock, gardens,



The donation was presented during the association's regular monthly board meeting. From left are Louise Browne, Ruth Dowell, Susan Wilson, Sue Elliott, Charlotte Wohler, Menard Electric General Manager Alisha Anker, Tim Bredberg, Menard Electric Board President Jay Frye, Lisa Schnell and Linda McCaffrey.

orchards and more," says Wohler. The donated funds will be used toward the restoration of doors for the north annex,

comprised of a summer kitchen, carriage house, wash house/dairy room and more.

Theatre in the Park \$2,000 donation

www.theatreinthepark.net

Theatre in the Park is central Illinois' longest running outdoor community theatre, and this summer marks its 100th year. It is located at Kelso Hollow Theatre at Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site in Petersburg. In addition to providing entertainment to the community and drawing tourism to the area, the theatre provides education and training to college and high school



The donation was presented before a performance of *Distant Thunder*. Pictured are General Manager Alisha Anker, Board President Jay Frye and Director of Member Services Trish Michels presenting the check to Theatre in the Park's Board Secretary Karla Wilhelm and Board President Kristin Wheeler.

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students as they serve as the sound and lighting crews.

The donated funds will be used towards the Sights and Sounds for the Future Project, a campaign to update the lighting and sound equipment for the theatre.

“Menard Electric is excited to be able to partner with CoBank to provide the funds to Theatre in the Park, a great local community theatre that provides so much fun and learning to our area. We were pleased to spend the evening here at the theatre and meet the hardworking crews and are happy to be a part of ensuring the continuation of a high-quality production,” says Menard Electric General Manager Alisha Anker.

Logan County Fairgrounds \$4,000 donation

www.logancountyfairil.com

In addition to the Logan County Fair, the 4-H fair and the regularly scheduled stock car racing events, the fairgrounds host other events including farmers markets, auctions, cattle shows, camper rallies, sales, private receptions

and reunions, recycling events, and more.

The donated funds will be used to upgrade the grandstand, infield and general lighting that provide security for nightly fair parking during weekly events as well as during automobile races.



The donation was presented as Logan County Fair Association members met to make final preparations for the fair. From left are Mike Maske, John Fulton, Menard Electric Board Secretary Mike Patrick, Herman Schwantz, Menard Electric General Manager Alisha Anker, Kevin Kurtz, Dean Bruns, Rod Conklin and Clay Irwin.



OFFICE CLOSED
Monday, Sept. 3
for Labor Day.

Summer hours of 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
continue through September 28.
Beginning October 1, hours are
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

MyMEC



Report outages* on our MyMEC easy-to-use app.

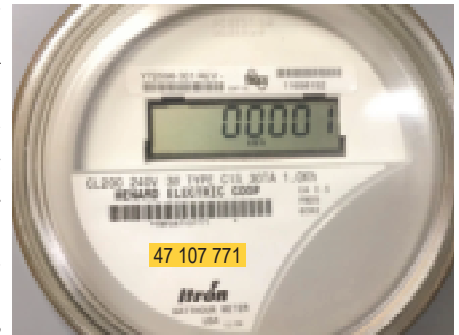
To download search for Menard Outage in the Google Play or iOS App Store.

You'll need to input the account number (which can be found on a recent bill), or your meter number (see photo).

Having trouble with any of the app features not working? We would appreciate you letting us know by emailing info@menard.com with the issue,

whether it's persistent, the date/time noticed, and whether you are an Apple or Android phone user.

*Security light outages should continue to be called in to the office at 800-872-1203.



Are you a voter?

Did you vote in the 2016 elections? If so, you were one of 500,000 MORE voters in co-op territories that went to the polls than during the 2012 election. You helped turn the tide of decreasing voter turnout in rural areas like ours.

When voters miss the chance to vote, they also lose the opportunity to communicate their concern to our leaders about the issues that matter to us, where we work, live and raise families.

Reliable electricity, rural infrastructure and access to rural broadband are just a few of the issues we all care about. These issues will only become priorities if we continue to express our concerns to our elected officials. Registering to vote and showing up to the polls on Election Day are the most effective ways to send this message.

Menard Electric Cooperative has (once again) joined America's electric cooperatives in continuing the Co-ops Vote campaign to help get out the vote and insert issues important to co-ops and our communities into the public discussion. This effort will ensure that our voices are heard loud and clear every day, and especially on this upcoming Election Day.

Here's what you can do to help. Ensure you're registered to vote right now. Then, encourage your friends and family to register too. Visit the Co-ops Vote website, WWW.VOTE.COOP, to get information on how to register and to learn more about your elected officials.



You can also learn more about the issues that matter in our communities.

Co-ops Vote is a non-partisan program developed by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 private, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives. You will join with 42 million members across the nation to ensure that electric co-ops are a powerful voice on national issues that have a local impact. If you have any questions, please visit WWW.VOTE.COOP.

We hope to see you at the polls!

Stay alert to power lines this harvest

- Stay alert to power line locations around fields and storage facilities.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines — at all times, in all directions.
- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always remember to lower extensions when moving loads.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- If a power line is sagging or low, call us immediately.

What to do if you make contact with a line:

- Stay on the equipment.
- Warn others to stay away and call 9-1-1.
- Do not leave until the utility crew tells you it is safe to do so.
- The only reason to leave the equipment is if it is on fire. When that is the case, jump off the equipment with feet together. Do not touch the ground and the equipment at the same time. Keeping feet together, hop/shuffle away about the length of a football field to safety.

Grain bins

Be aware of power lines near existing grain bins and consider proper clearance of equipment when planning additional bin sites.



Photo by Nick Grooms

Board highlights

For full minutes visit www.menard.com or contact the office.

June 26, 2018

- Present were Directors Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Gary Martin, Michael Patrick, Dennis Ryan, Roy Seaney, Jodine Tate & Steven Worner, Director of Member Services Trish Michels, Engineering Manager Brady Smith, Manager Alisha Anker & Attorney Charles K. Smith. Director Donald McMillan absent.
- Michels: Reviewed 81st Annual Meeting.
- Smith: Reviewed Joint Use Pole Attachments Agreement.
- Anker: Reviewed part 3 of 3 of NRECA 2018 National Director Survey results.
- Anker: Reviewed balance sheet, budget, capital credits, rebates, safety, reliability, operations, irrigations, water heater rate survey, member newsletter & LiHeap survey reports.
- Anker: Advised Mason County Fairgrounds volunteer work nearly completed.
- Anker: Advised she & Frye making Sharing Success donations next month to Historic Marbold Farmstead Association & Theatre in the Park; Logan County Fairgrounds to be scheduled.
- Anker: Gave May financial report. Year to date margins \$1,399,688 compared to \$1,593,386 last year. End of May equity 40.51%. Served 10,889 members accounts. Net utility plant \$48,437,749 compared to \$46,632,106 last year. Co-op meets requirements of RUS, FFB, NRCFC & CoBank.
- Goetsch: Reported on AIEC activities, reviewed executive summary.
- Martin: Reported on Prairie Power, Inc. & discussed annual meeting.
- Appointed Goetsch delegate for NRECA Region V Meeting; Ryan as alternate.
- Reviewed Board Mtg dates & times for 2018/2019. Approved with 2 changes: September 10/2/18 & December 12/21/18 at 9 a.m.
- Reviewed & approved Board Committee & Delegate appointments.
- Meeting of Bylaw & Policy Committee scheduled for July 24.
- Strategic Planning Session scheduled for Dec 4-5 at Roots.



Area fall events

Our members have a lot to choose from this fall for fun family entertainment! Here are a few happenings we would like to share.

September

- 1-2**, Manito Popcorn Festival
- 2**, Elkhart Route 66 Labor Day Celebration
- 3**, Greenview Labor Day Festival
- 7-8**, Williamsville Fall Festival
- 7-9**, Havana Oktoberfest
- 8-9**, Traditional Music Festival, New Salem State Historic Site in Petersburg
- 9**, Rib Festival, Hill Prairie Winery in Oakford
- 14-15**, Petersburg HarvestFest
- 15-16**, Abraham Lincoln National Railsplitting Festival in Lincoln

15-16, Clayville Historical Site Fall Festival in Pleasant Plains

14-15, Mason City Fall Festival

27-29, Athens Fall Festival

29, Arts & Crafts Festival at Historical Marbold Farmstead in Greenview

29-30, Beardstown Fall Fun Festival

29-30, Farm Days at Alpacas of Indian Point Hills in Petersburg

Pumpkin Patches opening this month with many activities:

- Indian Creek Farmstead in Petersburg opens **Sept. 15**
- Bomke's Patch in Springfield opens **Sept. 21**

October

5-7, Candlelight Tour at New Salem State Historic Site in Petersburg

6, Fall Open House at The Farm in Petersburg

7, Wine Release & Steak Fry at Hill Prairie Winery in Oakford

13, Fall festival at West of Wise Winery in Petersburg

21, Chili Bowl at Hill Prairie Winery in Oakford

27-28, Fall Festival at New Salem State Historic Site in Petersburg

Email info@menard.com by **Sept. 21** with information about upcoming local holiday events for our November issue.