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# The Wire

McDonough Power Cooperative • Macomb, Illinois 61455



*Mike Smith*  
President and CEO

## Operation Round-Up trustees approve grants

**O**peration Round-Up trustees met in October to review quarterly grant applications. Thanks to everyone who rounds up their bill, three area organizations received funding toward projects that improve the communities where we all live and work.

**Roseville Community Center, Inc.** received **\$3,000** toward heating upgrades in their building. The former Roseville Elementary School, which benefits the residents of Warren County, is now home to various groups and organizations including Roseville Kid's Place Daycare and Preschool,

Helping Hand Food Pantry & Family Resource Center, a branch of the Warren County YMCA, the Roseville Friendship Senior Center, and several scout troops.

**Western Illinois University Foundation** on behalf of the Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences will receive **\$3,000** toward the purchase of a Dual-Polarization Doppler Radar. **431A1-570A** Currently the 50-mile radius around Macomb is in a "radar hole." The purchase of this technology, which is a \$400,000 investment for the university, will provide a more accurate early warning system for severe weather and help keep our communities safe.

**McDonough County United Way** received **\$1,000** toward their annual campaign – "Together. We Are Golden." The United Way campaign supports 17 local, non-profit organizations. Their focus is assisting community-based and community-led programs and agencies committed to improving

health, education, and financial stability in McDonough County.

The Operation Round-Up trustees will meet again in January; application deadline is Jan. 7, 2019. For more details, check us out online at [www.mcdonoughpower.com](http://www.mcdonoughpower.com).



*Thank you, Operation Round-Up program, Thank you for your generous support of Loving Bottoms Diaper Bank. Your contribution of \$250 is very much appreciated! Our shelves are installed and holding so many diapers. We also gained room in the warehouse to host more volunteers at a time. Thank you for partnering with us and Spoon River Electric Cooperative to make this project happen.*

*Your donation is instrumental in getting over 8,500 diapers every month to young children in poor and low-income families in Knox, Warren, Mercer, Henderson and Fulton Counties. Without help from wonderful supporters like you, hundreds of children would go without this basic necessity.*

*Please visit our website, [www.lovingbottoms.org](http://www.lovingbottoms.org), to learn more about our organization and to keep up-to-date on the work that is being accomplished due to caring individuals like you!*

*Sincerely,  
Lee Ann Porter  
Founder and Executive Director*



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## Levelized Billing

**L**evelized Billing gives you a way to guard against large fluctuations in your monthly electric bill without ever having to play “catch-up” at the end of the year. With Levelized Billing, your monthly electric bill becomes a “rolling average” of your electric usage for the most recent 12 months. By averaging your changes in usage Levelized Billing over a 12-month period, your bill will remain fairly consistent every month, even in very cold or hot months when usage may be significantly higher. **6326AA40-750C**

Our Levelized Billing program is completely free for members with accounts in good standing and with at least 12 months of service history. Members can deactivate

the Levelized Billing program at any time by contacting our Billing Department. If a member on Levelized Billing becomes delinquent or enters into a delayed payment agreement, they will be removed from the program. Contact us today for details.



### Make sure we have your correct phone number

As more and more people are dropping their landlines and opting only for cell phones, it is important to keep McDonough Power updated with your primary phone number. Make sure your contact information is up-to-date. Call us at 309-833-2101 to speak to a member service representative.



Every month we will have four map location numbers hidden throughout The Wire. If you find the map location number that corresponds to the one on your bill (found above the usage graph), call our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.

## Show you care with safety-minded gifts

**T**his year give gifts of safety to show you care. From a smart doorbell to a smoke detector, a gift that keeps loved one's safe gives peace of mind and could help save lives.

Safe Electricity offers the following tips and gift ideas to help keep everyone on your gift list safer this holiday season and throughout the year.

### For adults

- Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- A flashlight with extra batteries for emergencies
- A roadside emergency kit
- Reflective clothing for runners or walkers
- Gloves with LED lights or hand-held "knuckle lights" designed for runners
- A smart doorbell to see who's at the door while at home and away
- Gift certificates for home services (home maintenance, such as HVAC inspection or chimney sweeping)
- A fire extinguisher for the kitchen
- A pack of GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) outlets and a gift certificate for a qualified electrician to install them

- A cozy bed blanket to replace an older electric blanket; those more than 10 years old are often unsafe
- Aftermarket safety systems for cars that don't have them, which include features such as forward-collision and lane-departure warnings
- For vehicles not equipped with them, a rear-view camera and dash cam **8333D6-650C**
- A pet harness for use in a vehicle; make sure it has earned crash-test certification

### For kids

- Buy age appropriate gifts (see recommendations on box or toy); children younger than age 3 should not have access to toys with small parts
- Don't forget proper safety gear such as helmets and knee and elbow pads when gifting scooters, roller blades, bikes and other riding toys
- Many gaming consoles are equipped with internet browsers and chat features that allow players to communicate with each other, so be aware of these capabilities in any game or electronic device

For other safety tips, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



## Our office will be closed

Christmas Eve – December 24

Christmas Day –  
December 25

New Year's Day – January 1

*Deadline approaching for scholarship application*

## Twelve 2019 IEC Memorial Scholarships available



Illinois electric cooperatives will award 12 \$2,000 scholarships in 2019 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program designed to financially assist students in the electric cooperative family.

Six scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member.

One scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director. **11122D3-1012B**

Four scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

One scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship, will help pay for costs to attend lineworker's school at Lincoln Land Community College. Sons and daughters of co-op members, relatives of co-op employees or directors, students enrolled in the Lincoln Land lineworker's school, or those who have served/are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible.

Deadline to apply for the first 11 scholarships is Dec. 31, 2018. The deadline for the lineworker scholarship is April 30, 2019.

Information has been shared with area high school guidance counselors and is available for completion at the cooperative's website at [mcdonoughpower.com](http://mcdonoughpower.com).

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holidays? Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets, like TVs, gaming consoles, chargers and DVD players use energy when plugged into an outlet, even when they're not in use.

*Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)*

