

# JAMUP

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## May your holiday season be merry and bright

The holidays are a time of year that many of us eagerly anticipate. The season is marked by special foods, seasonal decorations and lots of festivities.

We cherish carrying on old family traditions and enjoy creating new ones. Personally, I look forward to more time spent with family and friends.

However, given the hustle and bustle of the season, the holidays can also offer an opportunity to slow down and reflect. For all of us at Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC), we are grateful for you, the members of the co-op.

You see, one of our founding principles as a co-op is “Concern for Community.” While our main focus is providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, we want to give back. We want to help our community thrive.

### Reflection

In looking back at this past year, I’m grateful that we were able to make a positive impact in the community. We had the opportunity to partner with local schools, farmers and emergency responders to raise awareness of the importance of electrical safety. This year, we visited with hundreds of students from our local schools, farmers, policeman, fireman, EMTs as well as many others. **Natalie Harris**

The cooperative is committed to helping our educators as well. This year, teachers from area schools were awarded \$3,500 in Classroom



**David Johnston**  
Executive Vice President/  
General Manager

Empowerment Grants for use in their respective classrooms.

We continue to work closely with our local high schools and community college to award college scholarships. In 2019, we awarded \$5,000 to local recipients.

There are other ways we can help the community, whether we’re providing information about solar installs or helping you find ways to save energy at home, we want you to know we’re here to help.

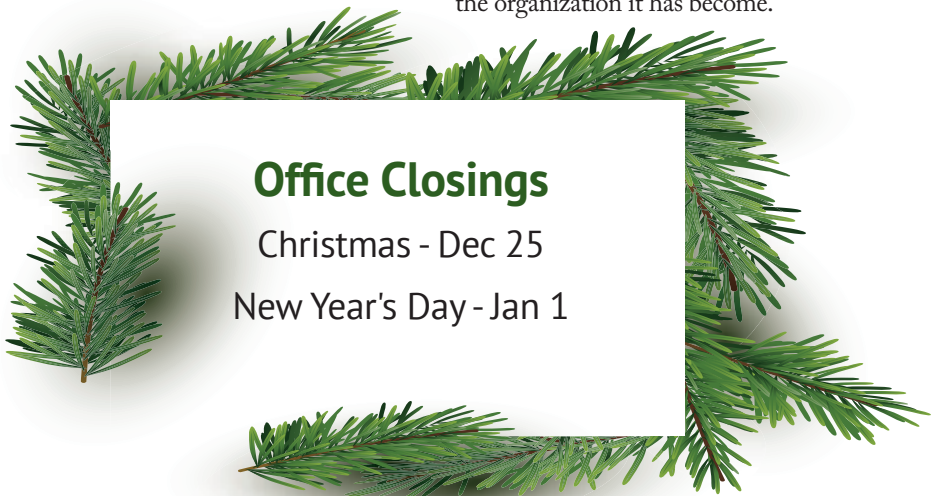
I want to specifically recognize the hard work of the employees and directors of your cooperative. These individuals are dedicated to serving the members of this cooperative. They are never satisfied and continuously seek opportunities to improve the service to each of you. For that, I’m very thankful and proud to be part of such a great organization.

### Looking ahead

Like most, this has been a challenging year. The electrical industry is changing rapidly ... arguably faster than it ever has. SIEC continues to adapt to these changes. In fact, SIEC finished 2019 strong and full of momentum. As we prepare for next year, we will continue to adapt and bring new ideas and opportunities to you, our members.

Looking ahead to 2020, we hope you will share your opinions with us. We recognize that our members have a valuable perspective, and that’s why we continually seek your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you. We are led by you – the members of the cooperative – and we depend on your feedback.

In closing, have a Merry Christmas and a great holiday season. Be safe. And sincerely, thank you for helping make Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative the organization it has become.



### Office Closings

Christmas - Dec 25

New Year's Day - Jan 1

## Stay safe and warm this winter

As the colder months hit, many of us are not prepared for Old Man Winter's potential wrath.

Although our number one goal at Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative is to provide safe and reliable service — to do all we can to keep the power on — heavy snow and accumulating ice can easily bring tree limbs down onto power lines, cutting off power to homes and businesses.

The CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) advises everyone to ready their home and cars, prepare for possible power outages, and to check on older adults. Be sure to have plenty of non-perishable food on hand and extra water stored in clean containers. If bad weather is forecasted, avoid travel, fully charge your cell phone and keep an up-to-date emergency kit on hand.

Specifically, the CDC recommends taking the following steps so that you will be more likely to stay safe and healthy when temperatures start to fall:

### Winterize your home

- Install weather stripping, insulation and storm windows.
- Insulate water lines that run along exterior walls.
- Clean out gutters and repair roof leaks.

### Check your heating systems

- Have your heating system serviced professionally to make sure that it is clean, working properly and ventilated to the outside.
- Inspect and clean fireplaces and chimneys.
- Install a smoke detector. Test batteries monthly and replace them twice a year.
- Have a safe alternate heating source and alternate fuels available.

### Prevent carbon monoxide (CO) emergencies

- Install a CO detector to alert you of the presence of the deadly, odorless, colorless gas. Check



batteries when you change your clocks in the fall and spring.

Learn symptoms of CO poisoning that include headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain and confusion.

- Keep grills, camp stoves and generators out of the house, basement and garage.
- Use fuel-powered generators at least 20 feet away from the house.
- Leave your home immediately if the CO detector goes off and call 9-1-1.

*Beverly Tanner*

### Prepare your car for cold weather

- Service the radiator and maintain antifreeze level.
- Check tire tread or, if necessary,

replace tires with all-weather or snow tires.

- Keep the gas tank full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.
- Use a wintertime formula in your windshield washer.

### Prepare emergency kits

Avoid driving, but in case you get stuck in bad weather or become stranded, an emergency kit for your car should include: cell phone, portable charger, extra batteries, blankets, food, water, booster cables, flares, tire pump, a bag of sand or cat litter (for traction), maps, flashlight, battery-powered radio, a first-aid kit, and plastic bags (for sanitation).

Start with these items for an in-home emergency kit: a flashlight, a NOAA Weather Radio, extra batteries, a pre-charged portable phone power source, first-aid kit with extra medicine and baby items, if necessary.

Don't forget specific items you or members of your family might need during an emergency.

For additional winter prep tips, consult the CDC ([cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)), Red Cross ([redcross.org](http://redcross.org)) or [ready.gov](http://ready.gov). For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).





## Electronic gift guide

This holiday season give the gift of tech! If you're searching for the latest gadgets and electronics to gift but don't know where to start, we've got you covered.

Here's a list of ideas for your tech-savvy friends and family members, and with a range of prices and interests, there's sure to be something for everyone.

### Gifts for those on the go:

We all have that one friend who never stays in one place, so they'll appreciate gifts that keep them charged and entertained while on the go.

A portable charger (or power bank) can keep their smart phones and tablets juiced, and the good news is this gift won't drain your wallet. You can purchase portable chargers online or at local retailers for as low as \$20. Typically, these compact devices can fully charge an iPhone three times before running out of steam.



A Bluetooth speaker is another great gift to keep those on the go entertained. Whether they're listening to their favorite tunes or watching the latest flick, Bluetooth speakers can clarify and amplify volume to satisfy any media enthusiast. Prices range depending on features, but you can purchase a quality Bluetooth speaker online or at local retailers for as low as \$30.

### Gifts for the chef:

Every foodie knows that temperature matters when mastering the perfect cut of meat. A Bluetooth-connected thermometer can help your chef ensure a delicious (and safe-to-eat) meal. Just download the associated



app and keep an eye on the grill right from your smart phone or tablet. Prices vary from \$30 to \$200, but you can purchase these handy gadgets online or at any big box store, like Walmart or Target.

A digital kitchen scale is a must for any culinary pro. No more guessing—the easy-to-read digital screen ensures the exact weight or amount required for that perfect dish. Prices vary depending on the weight the scale can handle, but you can find a 13-pound max weight scale for about \$20 on Amazon.com.

### Gifts for the pet owner:

Let's face it—pet owners would be lost without their fur babies. Luckily, pet tracking products continue to advance, so pet owners can always keep a watchful eye on their furry friends. Most trackers simply attach to your pet's collar. Prices vary depending on the tracker's capabilities, but some features include water resistance, health monitoring and exceptional battery life. You can purchase pet trackers online or at your local pet store.

Speaking of keeping an eye on pets, you can also purchase surveillance cameras for real-time monitoring—some cameras even allow you to toss treats to your furry friend while you're away. Additional features include a microphone (so you can talk to your pets), a built-in laser toy (for our feline friends) and the ability to snap a photo or take video from your smart phone. Prices vary depending on the bells and whistles, but you can purchase a pet camera for as low as \$40 on Amazon.com.

With so many electronics available today, you're sure to find the perfect gift for your tech-savvy loved ones. Happy shopping!  
*Erika Miller*



## Member prize

In this issue of the JAMUP, we printed the names of three SIEC members who are eligible to receive a \$10 credit toward their utility bill. If you find your name printed in this center section and it's not part of the story, call Bree with your account number at **800-762-1400** to claim your prize.

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**For Outages Call:**  
**800-762-1400 • 618-827-3555**

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WISHING YOU A  
*Merry Christmas*  
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

*From all of us here at  
Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative*

David A. Johnston, Executive Vice President/General Manager

Casey Adamitis	Joshua Kelley	Robin Ramage
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