


# JAMUP

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## Appeal of electric vehicles gaining momentum

The appeal of electric vehicles (EVs) is gaining momentum. The push for greater mileage in terms of MPG that began in the second half of the last century has been joined by the push for greater miles per charge. Before getting too far into this transportation evolution, a quick history lesson about EVs is in order.

The first known electric car was developed in 1837 in Aberdeen, Scotland. Early variants were powered by galvanic cells rather than rechargeable batteries. The lead-acid battery was invented in France in 1859 with further French development leading to manufacturing of these batteries on an industrial scale in the early 1880s. This allowed a rechargeable battery to be installed on the vehicle.

Soon manufacturers were selling an array of EVs ranging from trams to trolleys, to cars, and even locomotives. Interest in electric cars blossomed in the late 1890s and early 1900s. As roads improved and became more extensive, demand for greater range emerged. A variety of solutions were put forth including the first battery exchanges by an electric utility in Connecticut in 1910 and the first hybrid automobile in 1911. It would not be long until America led the world in number of EVs on the roads.

The rapid expansion of the country and the limitation of electricity to major cities and towns spelled the end of the electric car. The world wanted to be mobile, and EVs did not have the range required. Enter Henry Ford and the mass-produced, affordable internal combustion engine, and the EV's fate was sealed.

Fast forward to modern times, EVs are dominating the automotive news. Thanks to the electric cooperative movement,

electricity is available everywhere in the U.S., the majority of roads are paved and environmental concerns are increasing awareness.

While many drawbacks of EVs are gone, there is still a major concern limiting EV growth dubbed "range anxiety." This stems from the persistent limited range of all EVs. While the Tesla offering provides 270 miles for their all-wheel drive model and 355 miles on their standard models, that pales in comparison to most internal combustion cars. The lack of a rapid charging infrastructure is an ongoing impediment. Just like their 20th century predecessors, pure EVs are great "city cars."

Fortunately, advances in battery technology are hammering away at the range issue. Range is steadily expanding and battery management systems are squeezing out more miles. At the same time, more companies and utilities are installing efficient charging stations at their places of business and in public locations.

Range anxiety notwithstanding, EVs have a bright future. Prices are dropping and range is expanding so owners can confidently drive nearly everywhere with a little bit of planning. On top of this, the cars are just plain cool. The Tesla Model 3 promises a minimalist interior with all the necessary controls and information presented on a large touchscreen in the center of the console as opposed

to using the traditional instrument cluster.

Further, if you've never driven an electric vehicle, you are in for a treat. While an internal combustion engine must rev up to speed, an EV has full power at its disposal instantly. Of course, there are limits on this 0-60 mph capability to prevent inexperienced and over-eager drivers from launching themselves into accidents and speeding tickets. **Jerrie Clayton** They are quiet, well-appointed inside and allow you to forever bypass the lines at the gas station—unless you are in need of some snacks and a slushy.

One final word, if you purchase an EV, be sure to let your electric cooperative know. The service to your home is sized to meet the demands of your house as they existed when service was connected. Adding the EV charger creates a risk of overloading the wires and transformers powering your home. Overloaded services can fail and leave you in the dark with an uncharged EV.

Someday, we'll all be gliding silently—and cleanly—on our travels.



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## Nominating committee to meet May 18, 2020

Members to serve on the 2019–2020 Nominating Committee were appointed by David Martin, President of the Board of Directors, at the 2019 Annual Meeting of Members held Aug. 8, 2019. The committee will meet at the cooperative headquarters, 7420 U.S. Highway 51 South, Dongola, Ill. at 6 p.m. on Monday, May 18, 2020 to consider nominees for election to the board of directors at the 2020 Annual Meeting of Members. **Kevin C. Welch**

The following committee members were appointed to the 2019–2020 Nominating Committee to represent their respective counties:

### Alexander County:

- Delegate: Tim J. Pierce, 27753 State Highway 3, Thebes, IL 62990
- Alternate: Karen Moss, 21967 Old Delta Road, Tamms, IL 62988

### Johnson County:

- Delegate: Linda M. Wood, 4145 Indian Point Road, Vienna, IL 62995
- Alternate: Nancy Breeden, 2390 Lick Creek Road, Buncombe, IL 62912

### Massac County:

- Delegate: Ashley Thompson, 85 Wesley Drive, Metropolis, IL 62960
- Alternate: Randy Wilke, 1389 Karnak Road, Karnak, IL 62956

### Pulaski County:

- Delegate: Danny J. Thurston, 819 Sandusky Road, Pulaski, IL 62976
- Alternate: George Partridge, 1456 Tick Ridge Road, Grand Chain, IL 62941

### Union County:

- Delegate: Glenn Russell Heisner, 3605 Nash Road, Anna, IL 62906
- Alternate: Bruce Mosby, 1215 Bauer Road, Jonesboro, IL 62952

The bylaws of the cooperative provide the nominations to the board of directors may be made by: (1) nominating committee, (2) petition received not less than 45 days prior to the actual meeting, signed by 15 or more active members, or (3) an active member from the floor at the annual meeting. The three-year terms of the directors are expired alternatively so that each year elections are held for a portion of the board. At the 2020 Annual Meeting, elections will be held for a director from each of these three counties: Alexander, Johnson and Massac County.



**Carole J. Kelley**  
*Johnson County*

## Board member retirement

Carole J. Kelley of Buncombe is retiring from the board of directors of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative. Having represented Johnson County, she was first elected to the board in 1999.

Carole and husband Allen have four children and nine grandchildren. She is a graduate of Vienna High School and SIU Edwardsville with a Bachelor of Science in education specializing in math.

Carole has spent many years active in the community serving as secretary/treasurer of the Goreville Ministerial Alliance, Women's Bible Study leader and past 4-H and church youth group leader. Carole is also a former board member of Johnson County Extension, Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and Southern Illinois Power Cooperative.



*The SIEC office will be closed  
May 25 for Memorial Day.*

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When the weather is nice, put your grill to use! During summer months, cooking outdoors is a great way to save energy and eliminate unwanted heat from cooking indoors.





## 4 COMMON CULPRITS OF ELECTRICAL FIRES

Outdated wiring and overloaded circuits are the most common causes of electrical fires.

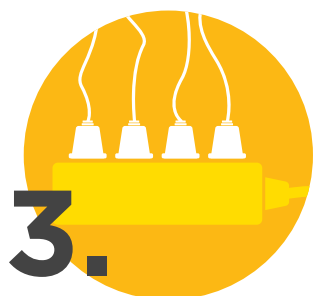
Check the following areas of your home to ensure your home's electrical safety is up to par.



**Electrical outlets:** Faulty electrical outlets are a leading cause of home fires. As outlets age, so do the wires behind them that you can't see. Any loose, damaged or warm-to-the-touch outlets should be repaired or replaced.



**Electrical wiring:** Outdated wiring is another common cause of electrical fires. Frequently tripped breakers, flickering lights and burning smells are clear warning signs. If your home is more than 20 years old, it may not be able to handle today's increased power load. If you suspect your home's wiring is outdated, leave this one to the pros and contact a qualified electrician.



**Overloaded cords and outlets:** Extension cords are not permanent solutions. If your big-screen TV, home theater system and other electronics are plugged into one extension cord, it's time to call an electrician and install additional outlets.



**Old appliances:** Older appliances are more likely to have loose or damaged wiring, which means they're more likely to catch fire. Check older appliances for damage and determine if it's time to upgrade or replace. Also check to ensure you're using appliance-grade outlets. A qualified electrician can help with installation.

## 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.

### SIEC Board of Directors

David Martin  
(President).....Massac Co.  
Bob L. McIntosh  
(Vice President).....Pulaski Co.  
Randall Rushing  
(Secretary-Treasurer).....Massac Co.  
Scott Miller.....Alexander Co.  
Lamar Houston, Jr.....Alexander Co.  
G. Robert Inman.....Pulaski Co.  
Carole J. Kelley.....Johnson Co.  
Bill Littrell.....Union Co.  
Scott L. Ury.....Union Co.

Ronald E. Osman (Attorney)  
General Manager David A. Johnston  
Bree D. Hileman (Editor)

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

### Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

7420 U.S. Highway 51 South  
P.O. Box 100  
Dongola, Illinois 62926

618-827-3555

Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4 p.m.

[www.siec.coop](http://www.siec.coop)

## Trimming trees near power lines can kill

There's no other way to say it. Trimming branches or limbs near power lines can kill.

If you look the other way, get distracted by deciding which limb to trim next or lose your footing, you could inadvertently make contact with a power line. You might think you have a steady hand but moving a few inches off course could be the last thing you ever do.

It doesn't take contact with a wire to cause a fatal shock — electricity will jump to find the quickest path to the ground. **Michael J. Grant** Keep

yourself and your tools or equipment more than 10 feet away from lines.

Did you know trimming within 10 feet (in any direction) of a power line is illegal? Only OSHA-certified line clearance workers are authorized to trim near power lines. So, when hiring a tree trimmer to trim near power lines in your yard or on your property, make sure the person you hire is certified to do so.

Call us with any questions about trees and power lines at **618-827-3555**.

For more information about electrical safety, visit **SafeElectricity.org**.

**Remember: Trimming trees within 10 feet of a power line can be fatal. Never trim branches or limbs near a power line. It's the law: only OSHA-certified line clearance workers are authorized to trim near power lines.**

## Get your summer on, but use decorative lighting safely

The summer months are approaching, and that means social gatherings will soon move outdoors. Outdoor electrical string and sphere lighting, as well as illuminated jars and outdoor fixtures, can add ambiance and visual flair to open-air living spaces.

**Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative** and **Safe Electricity** offer these safety tips when using decorative lighting outdoors:

- 💡 Only use strands, globes or other decorative fixtures that are approved for outdoor use and have been tested by a reputable safety laboratory, such as UL.
- 💡 Only string together the number of strands recommended by the manufacturer.
- 💡 All outdoor outlets should be protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs).
- 💡 Unplug or turn off lights when not in use.
- 💡 Only use extension cords that are rated for outdoor use and do not overload them.
- 💡 Do not use metal tacks or nails to drape or attach string lights.

- 💡 Consider using LED lighting, which gives off less heat and uses less energy than incandescent versions.
- 💡 Planning on adding extra outlets/running electricity to a gazebo or a "she shed?" Hire a qualified electrician to install them.
- 💡 Use outdoor-rated bulbs.
- 💡 Just like indoor lighting, do not use bulbs that surpass a fixture's maximum wattage.
- 💡 Inspect lights and cords before using them.
- 💡 Make sure everything you are plugging in — such as decorative lighting, outdoor kitchen appliances and other electrical items — won't overload the circuit. A qualified electrician can help with this.
- 💡 Adding permanent outdoor lighting? It is best to hire this out as well.

Enjoy dining al fresco and entertaining under the stars (and lights). Just select your lighting carefully and use it safely. For more information about electrical safety, visit **SafeElectricity.org**.