

THE GRID

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Mattoon, Illinois 61938

Phone: 217/235-0341
or Toll-Free:
1-888-661-CMEC (2632)
Office hours:
Monday-Friday
7:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.

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Debbie Albin..... Mattoon

Vice Chairman

John Bowers.....Lovington

Secretary

Bill Voyles.....Sullivan

Treasurer

Jeffery Hudson.....Charleston

Directors

Andrew Fearn.... Charleston

Kent Metzger Gays

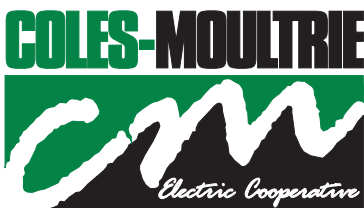
Thomas Sherman... Humboldt

President/CEO

Amy Borntreger

To Report an Outage
call #888-661-2632

Send your current email
to info@cmec.coop
for a chance to win a
\$25 bill credit



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

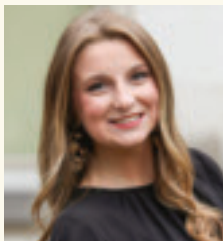


Welcome
Our New CFO
Nicole Rusk

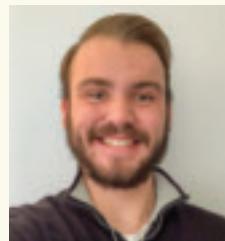
College Scholarships

Each year, CMEC awards scholarships to area students based on our principles, one of which is Education, Training and Information.

Congratulations to our 2020 Scholarship recipients!



Kennedy Bateman
daughter of Blythe and
Ron Bateman



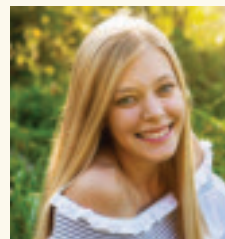
Zachary Bennett
son of Wendy and
Steve Bennett



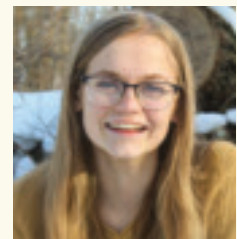
April Decesaro
daughter of Kim and
John Decesaro



Peyton Gill
daughter of Michelle
and Kyle Gill



Anna Maleske
daughter of Jodi
and Kris Maleske



Grace Rentfro
daughter of Michelle
and Donnie Rentfro

Ways to Save \$

Some of us are home now more than ever and we are using more energy by cooling our homes, using hot water and large appliances, cooking more and continually plugging into our electronics. Visit togetherwesave.com for ways to reduce energy and save money on electric bills.

How Can I Pay my Bill from Anywhere?



SmartHub:

Go to www.cmec.coop to get started

Autopay:

Email us to sign up at info@cmec.coop

Call toll-free:

888-661-2632, option #2

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Spending more time at home? Try an online energy audit to assess the overall efficiency of your home. Visit www.energystar.gov, then enter "home energy yardstick" in the search box to get started!



Annual Meeting Date Change

Due to COVID-19, our meeting has been postponed to Sept. 25.

Follow us on Facebook, visit our webpage: www.cmec.coop or call our office toll free at 888-661-2632 to stay updated on recent changes.

All members who register will receive a \$25 bill credit and a chance to win a \$500 bill credit.



Our goal is to serve our members. We will participate in a statewide survey conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) during August and September. You may be randomly selected to answer questions about your cooperative. **The survey vendor, Inside Information, may contact you and will not ask for credit card information or sell or share your private information.** Members who participate will be entered for a chance to win a \$250 bill credit. Your opinion matters to us!



Electric Outlets Explained

What are GFCIs and AFCIs?

You have probably heard the terms GFCI and AFCI when it comes to electrical safety, but what do the letters stand for? How do these devices help keep us safe? **Robert Cope**

GFCIs

GFCIs, or ground fault circuit interrupters, help protect against electrical shock and electrocution. It's important to test and reset the red outlet (GFCI) buttons monthly to ensure they are working properly. GFCIs are typically installed in outlets or circuits close to water sources in and outside of the home.

When in working order, GFCIs help prevent shock by detecting current variations along the electrical path. If a person's body starts to receive a shock, the GFCI senses this and cuts off power.

According to the National Electrical Code, a "ground fault" is when a conducting connection happens when an electrical circuit malfunctions, causing the electrical current to seek a path to ground other than via the intended wires. A human or animal in the wrong place at the wrong time could become that "path to ground" or conduit of electricity.

AFCIs

AFCIs, or arc fault circuit interrupters, are required by the National Electrical Code for some, but not all, electrical circuits in the home. The device breaks the circuit when it determines a dangerous electrical arc, which is a discharge between two electrodes that can cause intense heat or light. The extreme heat of an arc can cause a fire, which is why AFCIs are required by code.

WATT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter
Prevents electrical shock by detecting variations in current.
Install in areas where water and electricity are in close proximity.
Test outlets with GFCIs monthly; if they don't work properly, consult your electrician.

Arc Fault Circuit Interrupter
Prevents electrical fires caused by arc flash. Usually installed by an electrician.
An arc is an electrical discharge that can cause intense heat or light.
It interrupts the circuit when it detects an arc or other abnormalities in the flow of electricity.

Tamper Resistant Outlet
Prevents shocks caused by tampering with an outlet.
The protective shutters are designed to move when a plug is correctly inserted.
Became part of the National Electrical Code in 2008; if your home does not have these, install childproof devices.

Most people associate arcs with welding, but they can happen in the home or when the conductors on a power line are interrupted, such as when a tree falls on it or a car strikes a utility pole and the line falls.

Much like a GFCI is to a ground fault, the AFCI breaks the circuit when it detects an arc or abnormalities in the flow of electricity. That safeguard or break in circuit helps prevent a fire or other arc-related electrical damage. The temperatures of an arc can exceed 10,000 degrees.

An AFCI can distinguish between insignificant, harmless arcs and the undesirable kind that could start a fire or cause damage. Benign or uneventful arcs can be an everyday

byproduct of using switches and plugs in good working order.

What are arcs and ground faults, again?

In review, an arc fault is the unintended result of current flowing through an unplanned path. A significant arc can cause burning particles that can easily ignite the materials around it (drywall, insulation, wood). A ground fault happens when stray electricity takes an unintentional pathway and the current flows directly to the earth (to the ground). The result, if you become part of that path, could be shock or electrocution.

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

Find Your Name and Win \$25

Find your name hidden inside this issue of **The Grid** and receive a **\$25 bill** credit. Credit must be claimed by the end of each month in which this newsletter is published.

On Your Bill: Service Availability

All consumer-members pay a daily service availability charge so everyone shares fairly in the costs of operating and maintaining our electric system. It's like the costs you pay to own a car, even if you never drive it.



The graphic below shows all the work and services your co-op provides. We're ready for you at the flip of the switch.

Everything needed to bring electric service to you

- Bucket Trucks and Line Equipment
- Poles
- 24/7 Service
- Meters
- Wire
- Accounting & Billing
- Employees
- Taxes
- Online Services
- Storm Repair
- Computer Systems & Software
- Insurance
- Right-of-Way Maintenance
- System Improvements
- Phone Services
- Safety Equipment & Programs

Courtesy of Crawford Electric

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes can be viewed on our website: cmec.coop