


MONROE ELECTRIC NEWS

Waterloo, Illinois • 618.939.7171 • 800.757.7433

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Alan W. Wattles

Across The President's Desk

COVID-19 Update

Another month of the pandemic and not much has changed for Monroe County Electric Cooperative (MCEC). We have continued to alternate weeks with our employees and have maintained a healthy workflow. As we approach new stages as presented by the state of Illinois, MCEC is planning to adjust some of our work processes. Beginning June 1, all construction and forestry crews will be on site. We plan to stagger the start times for the crews so we can continue some of the separation of crews to help contain any possible health issues. We will also separate where our crews meet at the office to add another level of social distancing.

Our crews will be assigned as follows: a three-man crew will handle all new service work and the larger 4-5-man crew will begin to work on

system improvement projects. The forestry crew will continue to improve our right-of-way areas with trimming and spraying. The forestry crew will begin at 6 a.m., the 3-man crew at 6:30 a.m. and the last crew will start at 7 a.m. to prevent any overlapping and to have crews out and on their way for the day.

We do not plan to open the lobby through June, and until the state of Illinois allows more than 10 people to meet in a building. Currently we have 12 individuals that can be in the office at one time, so until this limit is higher, we will keep the lobby closed.

We hope we are meeting the needs of our membership, and if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the office at 939-7171 or 1-800-757-7433. We are here and ready to help.

Look out for our electric co-op vehicle. We have leased a Chevy Bolt and are putting a decorative wrap on it to promote EVs and other programs we have going on. We are also using this to help educate ourselves as to the impact an EV vehicle and its charging station will have on our system for the future.

Lastly, I truly hope all of you have been safe and not experienced any issues with the COVID-19 pandemic. I know it has changed the way we live our life, do our work and how we use our leisure time. This situation will pass, and we will look back and be reminded that we were able to get through this together.

Cooperative leases all-electric car



AutoPay program

Let us manage your payments for you

Forget the hassles of writing checks or having to remember when to make electric bill payments. Have your payments automatically deducted from your authorized bank account or credit card account before each due date. Our **AutoPay** program is the most convenient, reliable and least expensive way to pay your electric bill. You save time by not having to write checks and save the cost of postage. Furthermore, you no longer have to worry about payments getting lost in the mail or about **late payment charges** when you are out of town on business or vacation.

To sign up for **AutoPay**, you can download the application from our website (or cut out and mail the form below). Complete and sign the form along with a copy of a voided check or savings withdrawal slip. Mail it to us or leave it in our drop off box south of the building, and we will get you signed up.

Do you want a faster and easier way to sign up for AutoPay?

Sign up with our SmartHub application to set up recurring payment along with viewing your bills, reporting outages and viewing your daily usage. Just go to our website at mcec.org

and click on the SmartHub link below the "Latest News" section or download the SmartHub app on your phone or computer. It will ask for your MCEC account number.

Once in SmartHub, go to "Bill & Pay" and select "**Auto Pay Program**." It's that easy!

You will still receive a paper bill from us each billing cycle or you can "opt out" of a paper bill. The money transfer is "automatic" and "on-time" each month.

If you have any questions about our **AutoPay** program, please contact our office at 939-7171 or 1-800-757-7433.

Do you want a faster and easier way to sign up for Direct Bill Payment?

Sign up with SmartHub to set up your recurring payment, view your bills, report outages and view your daily usage. Go to our website www.mcec.org and click on the SmartHub link or download the SmartHub app on your smart phone.

Please complete the form below if you are unable to utilize the SmartHub option. Return it to the Cooperative as soon as possible. Posting of payments to your account will be made on the 20th of each month.

AUTHORIZATION FOR DIRECT CHECKING/SAVINGS PAYMENT

I authorize the financial institution named below to initiate entries to my checking/savings account. This authority will remain in effect until I notify you in writing to cancel it in such time as to afford the financial institution a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

Name and Branch of Financial Institution _____

Address of Financial Institution _____

Bank Account # _____ Type: ☐ Checking ☐ Savings

Financial Institution Routing # (between [:] on bottom left of check) _____

Name of Applicant-Please Print _____

Co-Op Billing Acct. # _____

Signature _____ Date(mm/yyyy) _____

****PLEASE ATTACH VOIDED CHECK TO THIS FORM****

Meet the Employees



Steve Drennan
Journeyman Lineman

Tell us about yourself.

I am married to my wife Cheryl and we have a son, Craig, and a daughter, Aleah. Craig is married to Abby and they have two dogs, Bear and Remy. Our daughter is married to Scott and they have three children: Colin, 9; Aralynn, 3; and Owen, 7 months old.

When I was a child, I wanted to be:

A landlord overseeing buildings.

If I could have any meal, it would include:

Sirloin steak with a baked potato and brownies for dessert.

Describe the best vacation you ever took:

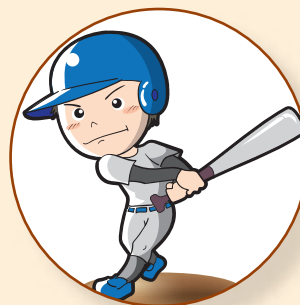
Going-To-The-Sun Road, Glacier National Park in Montana.

Do you have a collection of something?

I don't collect anything.

What was your favorite thing to play as a child?

Baseball and hide & seek.



What do you see yourself doing after you retire?

I would like to serve as road commissioner. My wife and I would also like to travel to Ireland.

MCEC line outages - May 2020

Date	Duration	# Out	Map Location	Cause Desc	Substation
5/5/2020	0:21	6	Lunch Rd	Small Animals Or Birds	Smithton
5/7/2020	4:01	632	Waterloo Area	Vehicles Or Machinery	North Waterloo
5/22/2020	1:01	4	Fults Rd	Trees, Other	Fults
5/24/2020	1:36	4	Lou Dell	Trees, Other	North Waterloo
5/26/2020	3:13	43	Fountain Area	Wind, Not Trees	Fountain
5/26/2020	0:41	37	Bottom/Levee Rd	Wind, Not Trees	Columbia
5/26/2020	0:10	186	Columbia South	Maintenance	Columbia
5/31/2020	1:38	61	Saeger Rd	Trees, Other	Millstadt



www.mcec.org

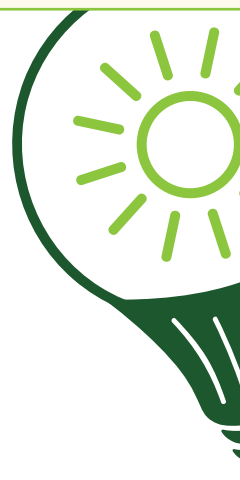
6132 State Rt. 3 • P.O. Box 128
Waterloo, Illinois 62298
618-939-7171 • 800-757-7433

Office hours:
Monday through Friday
7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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 energystar.gov, then enter "home energy yardstick" in the search box to get started!





FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS

Fireworks and the Fourth of July go hand-in-hand, and we want you to have a safe, fun-filled celebration! About two-thirds of all fireworks-related injuries occur between June 16 and July 16, so keep these safety tips in mind:

- ★ Make sure fireworks are legal in your community before using them.
- ★ Never buy professional-grade fireworks. They are not designed for safe consumer use.
- ★ Keep small children a safe distance from all fireworks including sparklers which can burn at temperatures in excess of 2,000 degrees.
- ★ Never reignite or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Keep a bucket of water or garden hose nearby to thoroughly soak duds before throwing them away.
- ★ Keep pets indoors and away from fireworks to avoid contact injuries or noise reactions.



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES



Want to get updates on outages?

Sign up with SmartHub!

Visit mcec.org or download our free, secure mobile app!