

# THE GRID

P.O. Box 709  
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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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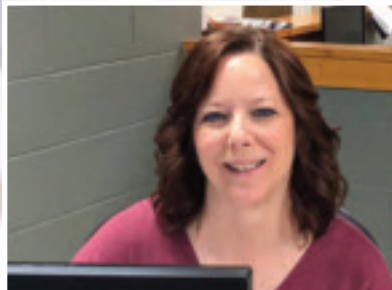
## Honoring CMEC Veterans



Carla Bradbury



Jim Geldert



Heather Hakman



Dennis Ray

**Thank you for your Service!**

## Veterans Support Coalition

Are you a veteran or do you know a veteran who may need help? This coalition in Coles County located at 700 Broadway East, Space 8, Mattoon, is committed to assisting veterans in need. They network with local businesses, volunteers and organizations to connect veterans and their families to resources in our community. To find out more or to donate your time or resources, contact them at 847-612-2547 or email [info@colescountyveterans.org](mailto:info@colescountyveterans.org).



Justin Bawcam, president, (left) and John Geib

# Small Business Comeback

We are helping kick-start local small businesses by promoting their products and services on Facebook and in our newsletter. This is part of our cooperative business model. We started by featuring a business each month and then had the opportunity to visit a few more (see below).

## Local Places & Local Faces



### Moran's Pumpkin Patch

**576 CR 1000 N, Neoga**

Tom Moran grew up with a passion for growing things, and this is his family's first year for their pumpkin patch which is open weekends from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. while supplies last. If you missed visiting their little niche near Neoga this year, no worries, they plan on adding more in 2021.



### Okaw Valley Orchard

**724 CR 1750 N, Sullivan**

This hidden treasure started 40 years ago by Linda and James Bailey and includes pies, honey, nuts, cider slushies and of course apples. It is worth the drive just to smell and taste their amazing apple donuts. November hours are Wednesday - Saturday 9 a.m.-5p.m and Sunday noon-5 p.m. See their website: [okawvalleyorchard.net](http://okawvalleyorchard.net).

*Pictured L to R Jennifer & Mike Mitchell, James Bailey*

### Buxton's Garden

**1489 CR 725 E, Sullivan**

This started out as a roadside stand selling sweet corn and is now open all year with a flower shop and so much more. This is right off the highway on route 121 and you cannot resist pulling over to check out "the shed." November hours are Monday through Friday 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-noon. See their website: [buxtongarden.com](http://buxtongarden.com).



### Watch for more Local Places & Local Faces

in the coming months. If you have a product or service you provide and would like to be featured in The Grid, contact [info@cmec.coop](mailto:info@cmec.coop).





## Dreams Really Do Come True

Cross County Mall in Mattoon is home to a new business incubation center called Elevate. This is a wonderful space for innovation where entrepreneurs of all ages come together to learn, collaborate and support each other. Elevate was started

by Mattoon in Motion and serves as the hub for a local entrepreneurial development class involving high school junior and seniors called "ClassE." To learn more or find out details about their resources, go to [elevate217.org](http://elevate217.org).



# WELCOME

**Bill Honchell is our  
new Distribution  
Automation Technician**



## Members Receive Aid

Since January 2020, our members have received more than \$135,000 in aid for electric bills. If you have a past due bill, please call us at 217-235-0341 to make payment arrangements. We also have a list of some agencies that may be able to help.



# 2020 Annual Meeting

**CANCELED**

COVID-19 has brought many challenges and changes for all of us. We sure missed catching up and seeing our members this year at our annual meeting, which was postponed for Sept. 25 and then later canceled. If you have questions or feedback for us, do not hesitate to call toll free 888-661-2632 or email [info@cmec.coop](mailto:info@cmec.coop). We are already preparing and planning for our meeting in 2021.



## Drive-thru Payment Available

**Reminder:** We have a drive-thru drop box for members who want contactless payment.



Here's a shout out to MMV Farm of Sullivan for letting us stop by and get some great footage and pictures for Farm Safety Week, which is held each year in September. If you missed this, check it out on our Facebook page. **Timothy Miller**

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Keep cold air out to save energy. Seal air leaks around pipes and any gaps around chimneys and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.

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



## 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.



Monthly Board Meeting Minutes can be viewed on our website: [www.cmec.coop](http://www.cmec.coop)