



Mike Smith
President and CEO

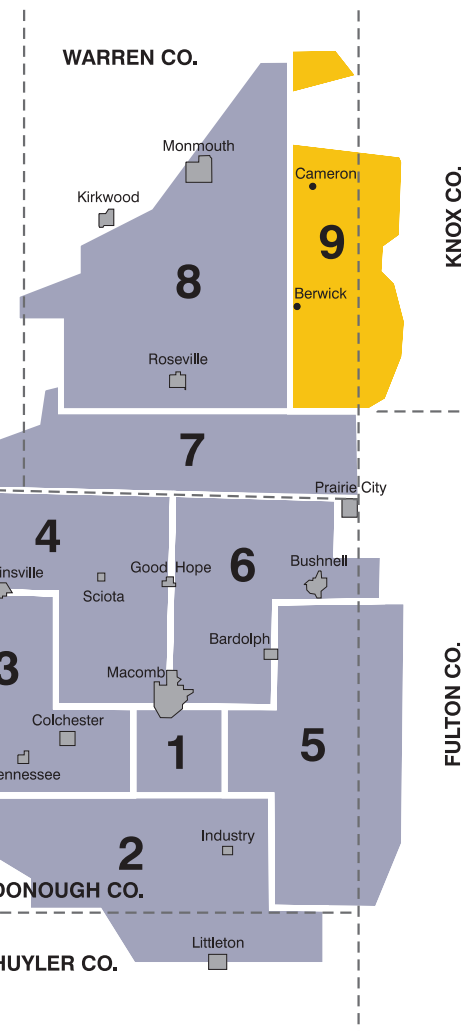
Seeking a director for district 9

The board of directors of McDonough Power Cooperative is currently looking for interested candidates to serve as a director representing the cooperative membership of district 9 due to the retirement of a long-time board member. The successful candidate will be elected by a ballot vote of the membership at the 2021 McDonough Power annual meeting scheduled for Aug. 25, 2021 at The Crossing Church located on West Jackson Street in Macomb. The board welcomes a diverse set of candidates and encourages those interested to refer to mcdonoughpower.com or to call the cooperative during normal business hours for more information.

1122C2A-1052A

The following is a brief listing of some of the requirements to be a director of McDonough Power:

- The candidate must be a member of the cooperative, in good standing and primarily reside in one of the following areas Warren County townships of Kelly, Coldbrook, Floyd, and Berwick or in the Knox County townships of Galesburg, Cedar, and Indian Point.
- The candidate must have been a member of McDonough Power for a minimum of two years prior to election.
- The candidate must not be employed by the cooperative or financially



interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative.

Continued on 20B

REMEMBER AND HONOR
MEMORIAL DAY

Office closed Monday, May 31 for Memorial Day – Be sure to display your American flag this Memorial Day and pay tribute to the brave men and women who gave their lives for our freedom and allow our precious flag to fly.

Member Prizes

Every month we will have four map location numbers hidden throughout The Wire. If you find the map location number that corresponds to the one on your bill (found above the usage graph), call our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.



1210 West Jackson Street
P.O. Box 352
Macomb, Illinois
61455-0352

309-833-2101

mcdonoughpower.com

Office hours:
7 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Weekdays

Find us on 

DIRECTORS

- Jeff Moore, Chairman
- Walt Lewis, Vice Chairman
- Steve Hall, Secretary
- David Lueck, Treasurer
- Mike Cox
- Bob Dwyer
- Steve Lynn
- Jerry Riggins
- John D. McMillan, Attorney

**All Co-op Electric
Outages 837-1400**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections



Continued from 20A

A cooperative director is expected to:

- Attend all monthly board meetings, which generally last two or more hours
- Attend all special board meetings, committee meetings, and annual meeting of members
- Attend all board meetings of other organizations for which he or she is a director representing McDonough Power Cooperative
- Complete the NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director training during the first three-year term of office

For a candidate to be placed on the ballot, a petition of 15 names comprised of members of McDonough Power shall be submitted to the cooperative office a minimum of 30 days prior to the annual meeting at which time the secretary of the board shall post all candidate names. The final determination that a candidate meets all the qualifications as written in the bylaws shall be made by the board of directors of McDonough Power and the cooperative attorney. **6326AA26-750C**

As previously stated, please refer to mcdonoughpower.com or contact me at the cooperative office for additional information.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat.

The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause your air conditioner to run longer than necessary.



Source: www.energy.gov

ROW clearance begins in May

Tree trimming improves service for all

One of the things I love best about our community is the natural beauty that surrounds us. We are fortunate to have so many trees that offer beauty, shade and a habitat for all sorts of wildlife. We know you appreciate our community for many of the same reasons. **1123D6-1052A**



At McDonough Power Cooperative, we strive to balance maintaining beautiful surroundings and ensuring a reliable power supply by keeping power lines clear in rights of way (ROW).

While we recognize and appreciate the beauty of trees, there are benefits to tree trimming in ROW areas. However, before touching on the main reasons, let me explain what a “right of way” is and how it may impact you.

A right of way is the land used to construct, maintain, replace or repair underground and overhead power lines. Rights of way enable the co-op to provide clearance from trees and other obstructions that could hinder the power line installation, maintenance or operation. ROW areas are typically on public lands or located near a business or home.

Regardless, McDonough Power must be able to maintain the power lines above and below the ROW. The overall goal of our vegetation management program is to provide reliable power to our members while maintaining the beauty of our community. Proactive vegetation management benefits co-op members in three tangible ways.

Safety

First and foremost, we care about our members and put their safety and that of our lineworkers above all else. Overgrown vegetation and trees pose a risk to power lines. For example, if trees are touching power lines in our members’ yards, they can pose grave danger to families. If

children can access those trees, they can potentially climb into a danger zone. Electricity can arc, or jump, from a power line to a nearby conductor like a tree. A proactive approach also diminishes the chances of fallen branches or trees during severe weather events that make it more complicated and dangerous for lineworkers to restore power.

Reliability

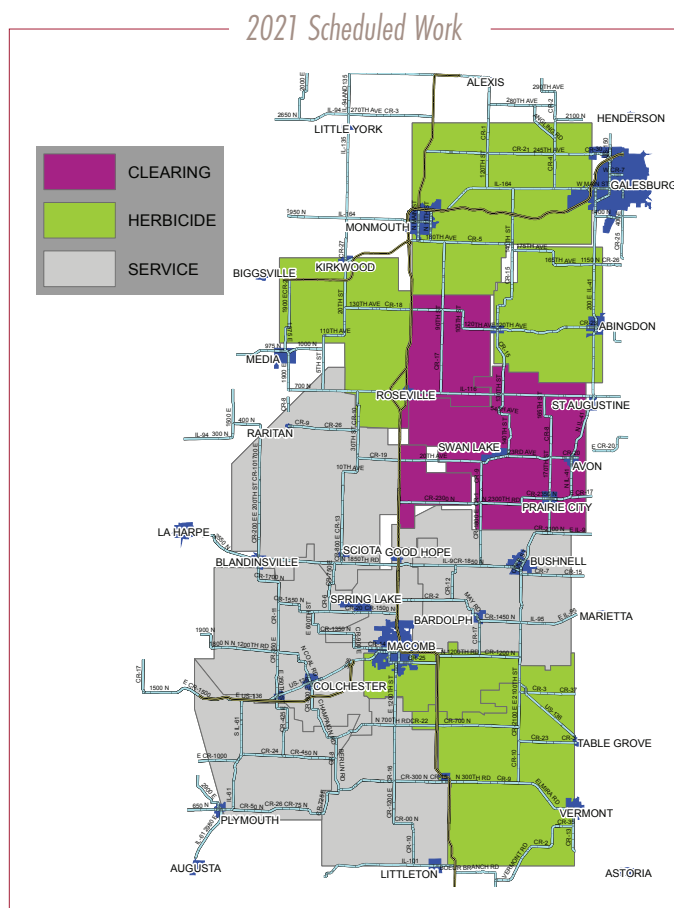
Of course, one of the biggest benefits of a smart vegetation management program is reliability. Strategic tree trimming reduces the frequency of downed lines causing power outages. Generally speaking, healthy trees don’t fall on power lines, and clear lines don’t cause problems. Proactive trimming and pruning keeps lines clear to promote reliability.

Affordability

As you know, McDonough Power is not-for-profit, and that means we strive to keep our costs in check to keep our rates affordable. This extends to our approach to vegetation management and is one of our largest annual expenditures. If trees grow too close to power lines, the potential for expensive repairs also increases. Effective tree trimming and other vegetation management efforts keep costs down for everyone.

Our community is a special place. We appreciate the beauty trees offer, but we also know our community depends on

us to provide reliable energy. Through vegetation management, we are able to keep the power lines clear, prepare for weather events and secure the grid’s reliability. That’s why we’ve once again contracted with Spoon River Electric Cooperative (SREC) to perform vegetation management in the following areas beginning in May; continuing through the summer and fall. See the map for details. This work might include cutting, trimming, mowing and application of environmentally safe herbicides. SREC personnel are licensed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture and are experienced in all aspects of tree pruning and herbicide application. If you have any concerns regarding work to be done in your area, please contact our office at 309-833-2101.





Considering a new home or apartment? Check out electrical concerns too

Whether you're renting or buying, the process of looking for a house, condo or apartment can be overwhelming, especially for young people moving out on their own or new families ready to relocate to larger places. Along with looking for a good value, the right neighborhood or curb appeal, also look for signs of potential electrical trouble before deciding.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, electrical failures or malfunctions are present in an estimated average of 47,000 home structure fires per year in the U.S., which result in 430 deaths, 1,280 injuries and \$1.5 billion in property damage. Based on figures from the National Center for Biotechnology Information, electrical injuries in general cause approximately 1,000 deaths per year in the U.S. **5316C8-260B**

Aside from having a professional electrical inspection completed, look for the following warning signs of larger electrical safety hazards before signing on the dotted line:

- Outlets and light switches that are warm to the touch
- Loose, scorched or discolored outlets

- Wall or light switches that cause shocks upon contact.
- Strange smells (such as something burning or overheating)
- Smoke or sparks
- Exposed wires
- Lack of GFCIs (ground fault circuit interrupters) on certain outlets (those near a water source or that could get wet)
- Lack of AFCIs (arc fault circuit interrupters); these help to prevent fires and are required in new builds
- Faulty appliances
- Evidence of frequent blown fuses or circuit breakers
- Missing or broken wall plates
- Delayed responses after switching lights on or off
- Flickering lights

Another good house-hunting practice is to take note if there are too few outlets to accommodate your needs—for electronics, appliances and other items that will increase the electrical load. If you will need to use extension cords and large outlet strips on a regular basis, you risk overloading your electrical system and creating an

electrical hazard.

If you are buying a home, a reputable home inspector should note electrical wiring or other electrical deficiencies and code violations. Make sure electrical items are addressed by a qualified electrician before you call your new place home. If you already own your home and detect electrical issues, call a reputable electrician so problems can be addressed immediately.

If you are or will be a renter and notice any of these issues, advise the landlord right away. If your landlord won't make repairs, tenants have the option to hire someone to make the repairs and deduct the costs from the rent. Illinois law allows you to deduct \$500 or half a month's rent, whichever is lower. However, remember that a certified electrician is the only person who should be hired to assess and repair electrical hazards or address issues, so verify credentials before hiring one. Research laws in your area to determine renter protection provisions.

Both renters and homeowners should test all GFCIs once a month to make sure they are working and keep an eye out for other electrical hazards. For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.