

THE GRID

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Office hours:
Monday-Friday
7:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.

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To Report an Outage
call #888-661-2632

Send your current email
to info@cmec.coop
for a chance to win a
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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Learn More About ESD

An unfamiliar term to many, ESD (Electric Shock Drowning) means someone is being exposed to stray electrical current in water, usually from faulty wiring—a danger you cannot see or detect just by looking. Many people have never heard of ESD or do not even know it's a possibility when swimming, wading, boating or hot tubbing.

While we are not suggesting stray electricity lurks in every body of water, it is important to be aware water can become electrified and electric shock drowning can occur.

Dangerous water that has electrical current running through it can paralyze muscles, leaving a swimmer unable to move or stay afloat. Stray electricity could be found in the water:

- Near a dock that uses electricity (usually in fresh water as opposed to salt water)
- Near a marina (never swim there)

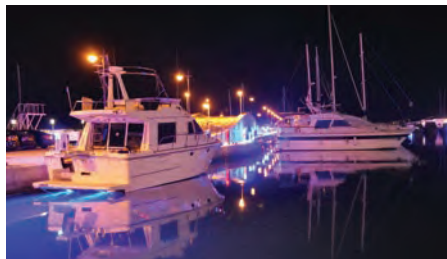
- Surrounding a yacht or boat capable of generating electricity
- In a pool or hot tub (electricity often runs the lights and motors)
- In a wading pool, kiddie pool, lazy river or water amusement feature that uses electricity

This is not an exhaustive list. In fact, current could leak into any water source with electricity running to it (for example, a lighted fountain).

Depending on the magnitude of the current, sometimes a person can detect stray electricity in the water by the sensations they feel, such as prickly or tingly sensations. If that happens, pull your legs up close to your body and swim away from the source of electricity (e.g., a dock, boat or light post on shore). Yell to someone on land or the dock to cut the power. Again, do not swim toward the electrical source.

If you suspect someone is experiencing electrical shock while in the water, do not jump in to help. Instead, call 9-1-1, throw a life ring or lifesaver and, if you can, shut off the power source.

For more information about electrical safety, go to SafeElectricity.org.



Cast your vote now through June 14, 2021. Members were mailed ballots on or about May 20 and details can be found on our website: cmec.coop. The ballot includes three bylaw proposals. There are no contested elections this year for CMEC. Your cooperative is member owned which means democratically controlled by you.



Suds and Savings

10 ways to save energy in the laundry room

Your clothes washer and dryer account for a significant portion of energy consumption from major appliances, and let's face it—laundry is no one's favorite chore. Make the most of your laundry energy use! There are several easy ways you can save energy (and money) in the laundry room. **Kenneth Warner**, The Department of Energy recommends the following tips for saving on suds.

Wash with cold water.

Switching from warm to cold water can cut one load's energy use by more than half, and by using a cold-water detergent, you can still achieve that brilliant clean you'd normally get from washing in warm water.

Wash full loads when possible.

Your washing machine will use the same amount of energy no matter the size of the clothes load, so fill it up if you can.

Use the high-speed or extended spin cycle in the washer.

This setting will remove more moisture before drying, reducing your drying time and the extra wear on clothing.

Dry heavier cottons separately.

Loads will dry faster and more evenly if you separate heavier cottons like linens and towels from your lightweight clothing.

Make use of the "cool down" cycle. If your dryer has this cycle option, you can save energy because the clothes will finish drying with the remaining heat in the dryer.



Use lower heat settings to dry clothing. Regardless of drying time, you'll still use less energy.

Use dryer balls. Dryer balls, usually wool or rubber, will help keep clothes separated for faster drying, and they can help reduce static, so you can eliminate dryer sheets.

Switch loads while the dryer is warm. This allows you to take advantage of the remaining heat from the previous cycle.

Clean the lint filter after each drying cycle. If you use dryer sheets, remember to scrub the filter once a month with a

toothbrush to remove excess buildup.

Purchase ENERGY STAR-rated washers and dryers. When it's time to purchase a new washer or dryer, look for the ENERGY STAR label. New washers and dryers that receive the ENERGY STAR rating use about 20 percent less energy than conventional models.

To learn more ways to save energy at home, visit cmec.coop or the Department of Energy's home efficiency page, energy.gov/energysaver.

Annual Meeting Postponed

Our 2021 Annual Meeting has been postponed to a later date, yet to be determined. Be sure to follow us on Facebook for updates.



Find Your Name and Win \$50

Find your name hidden inside this issue of The Grid and receive a **\$50 bill credit**. Credit must be claimed by the end of each month in which this newsletter is published.



THINKING ABOUT SOLAR?



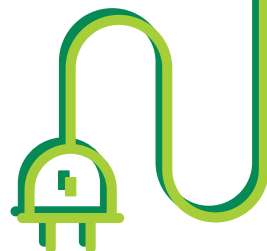
**ARE YOU CONSIDERING SOLAR TO POWER YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS?
BE SURE TO CALL US FIRST TO GET THE FACTS. WE ARE HERE TO HELP!**

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

A dirty filter causes your air conditioner to work harder than necessary.

Remember to change your air filter every month (or every two months) to prevent dust buildup, which can lead to even bigger problems.

Source:
www.energy.gov



Get smart about lighting.

Smart light bulbs offer convenient control through voice commands or a smart phone app, and you can save additional energy (and money!) with LED options.

Photo Credit: Philips



LOCAL & LOCAL Places & Faces

Bells Flower Corner

1335 Monroe Ave, Charleston • 217-345-3919
www.bellsflowercorner.com

This local Illinois florist shop has a wonderful variety for any occasion and will assist with worldwide deliveries. They even have gift baskets that include anything from candles or stuffed animals to chocolates and wind chimes. Check out their story below which illustrates why “local” matters.



“The owner’s husband was on a delivery to an elderly woman in the country on her birthday. Nobody answered the door even though her car was in the drive and he felt that something was not right. He went to the church next door to ask if anyone knew her or seen her. They said they had not seen her, but she had a relative that lived across the street. He then went to the relative’s and they went to check on her. She had fallen and broken her hip. If he had not followed up on his instincts, the outcome could have been very different.”



Decals Plus

5567 Lake Rd, Mattoon • 217-254-0721
decalsplus2@yahoo.com

Why buy a gift when you can purchase a personalized treasure? Decals Plus has hundreds of gift ideas that can be personalized to your specifications. Mark and Pam King opened their shop in 2014 and offer flags, signs, magnets, banners, cups, mugs, mouse pads, key chains, door mats, lasered engraving and

SO MUCH MORE!! Give Pam a call or see many of the items on Facebook at Decals Plus. If you have an idea, bring it to them. They will make suggestions as to what products will work well.

Pro-Mow Lawn Care & Landscaping

1610 Redbud Rd, Charleston • 217-345-5296
pro-mow.com

This excellent long-time business will take care of all your lawn needs while maintaining professional knowledgeable service. Pro-mow, operating since 1999, gives back to the community and has been beautifying properties year after year. They will make life easier, whether it is weekly mowing, landscaping, fertilization, mulching, aeration or seasonal cleanup. They have a 98 percent retention rate, provide free consultation, and are sure to be your one stop for all your lawn care needs.



**We are helping support and kick-start small business comeback in our communities.
Email info@cmec.coop if you have a business, product or service you provide.**

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