



Clinton County
Connection

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Clinton County Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting of the Membership will be held on Thursday, August 19, 2021 at Central Community High School in Breese, IL. Registration will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the business meeting, including trustee elections, will begin at 7:30 p.m. The nomination procedure for those interested in running for a position on the board can be found on page 20B.

Before you jump in, learn more about ESD

An unfamiliar term to many, ESD 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 don't 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.

Bylaws specify nomination procedure

Section 4.06. Nominations. It shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees to appoint, more than ninety (90) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which Board trustees are to be elected, a committee on election and credentials consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than nine (9) members with at least one (1) member from each district from which a trustee is to be elected. No employee, trustee, Officer, known candidate, or close relative (as hereinafter defined) of any of the above may serve on such committee. The purpose of the committee is to review the qualifications of petitioning nominees and to conduct the election of trustees. To be nominated by petition, a candidate for trustee must file a petition for nomination signed by at least twenty-five (25) members, but not more than fifty (50) members. Signatures may come from the entire Cooperative membership. A joint membership constitutes only one member. Nominations by petition must be picked up and filed not more than ninety (90) days or less than forty-five (45) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which trustees are to be elected. The Election and Credentials Committee, or subcommittee of same must meet to determine if the candidates meet the qualifications for trustee. Upon establishment of the fact that a nominee for trustee lacks eligibility under these Bylaws, it shall be the duty of the Election and Credentials Committee to disqualify such nominee. If there are no nominations by Petition for trustee in any district in which a trustee is to be elected, it is the duty of the Board of trustees to appoint a member to serve in that position.

At least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting of members, the Election and Credentials Committee shall certify a list of nominees for trustee to the secretary. The secretary shall then post at the principal office of the Cooperative, at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting of members, a list of the nominations for trustee to be elected, listing separately the nominee(s) for each trustee district. The secretary shall also be responsible for mailing, with the Notice of Meeting or separately, but at least five (5) days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of Board members to be elected and the names and addresses of the nominees. No nominations may be made from the floor. Nominees' names from the same district may be rotated on the ballot so that each nominee's name is on the ballot in the same position as equal number of times as possible. Notwithstanding anything in this section contained, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of trustee. The Election and Credentials Committee shall elect its own chairman and secretary at its initial meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the committee to establish or approve the manner of conducting any ballot or other voting, to pass upon all questions that may arise with respect to registration of members in person, to count all ballots or other votes cast in any election or in any other manner, to rule upon the effect of any ballots or other votes irregularly or indecisively marked or cast, to rule upon all questions that may arise relating to member voting in the election of trustees and to

pass upon any protest filed with respect to election or to conduct affecting the result of the election. In exercising the responsibility, the committee shall have available to it the advice of counsel provided by the Cooperative. In the event a protest or objection is filed concerning any election, such protest or objection must be filed not more than three (3) business days following the adjournment of the meeting in which the voting is conducted. The committee shall thereupon be reconvened, upon notice from its chairman, not less than seven (7) days after such protest or objection is filed. The committee shall hear such evidence as is presented by the protestor(s) or objector(s), who may be heard in person, by counsel, or both, and any opposing evidence; and the committee, by a vote of a majority of those present and voting, shall, within a reasonable time but not later than thirty (30) days after such hearing, render its decision, the result of which may be to affirm the election, to change the outcome thereof, or to set aside. The committee's decision (as reflected by a majority of those actually present and voting) on all matters covered by this Section shall be final. The committee may not affirmatively act on any matter unless a majority of the committee is present.

For a list of Election and Credentials Committee members, date of meeting, a petition or any other information concerning the nominations procedure, please contact: Bob Kroeger, President, Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., 475 N. Main Street, Breese, IL 62230, (618) 526-7282.

Brownouts: What are they, and why do they happen?

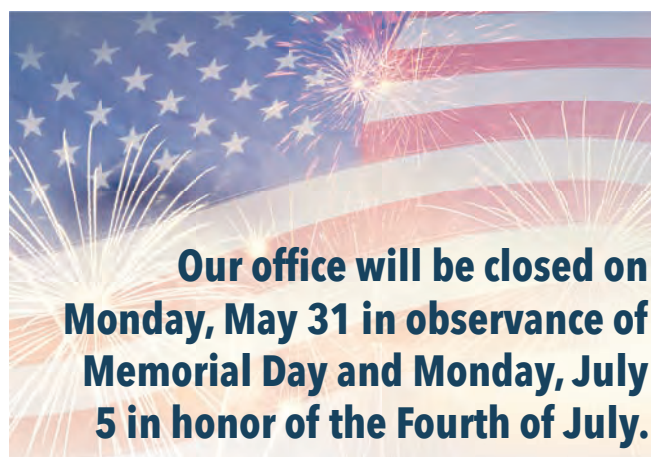
The lights flicker and dim. The television suddenly reboots. Your computer screen goes dark. As soon as you start to wonder when or if you clicked save, the lights become brighter and everything seems to return to normal; except, perhaps, that document you were working on.

When these events occur simultaneously, it could mean that you have experienced a brownout, which gets its name from the way incandescent light bulbs dim and the light appears brown. But what exactly is a brownout, and how is it different from a blackout?

Where a blackout is a complete shutdown of power, a brownout means energy is reduced by 10 to 25 percent. Brownouts typically occur when outdoor temperatures are extreme, causing a significant spike in energy demand. This heightened demand can cause electricity production to be near or at capacity. The opposite action, a temporary reduction in the voltage of electricity (a brownout), can help avoid a total shutdown of the electrical system.

When energy demand is at its highest, Clinton County Electric Cooperative and Safe Electricity recommend:

- Unplugging computers and high-end electronics to protect them from potential damage caused by power sags and surges. As a rule, these types of devices cannot regulate the amount of power they receive.
 - Installing point-of-use surge protectors. This type of affordable surge protector plugs directly into an outlet and works by cutting the power when excessive voltage is detected. While most appliances are typically unscathed by dips and eventual surges in voltage levels caused by a brownout, damage can happen, and these devices add a layer of protection.
 - Considering a whole-home surge protector, which helps protect all your home's electrical devices. While more of an investment than the plug-in variety, it works by diverting power from appliances and electronics through a home's grounding wires. It can also help protect appliances from spikes related to lightning strikes and other electrical issues. This type of whole-home
- protection should be installed by a qualified electrician directly into your home's electrical panel.
- Unplugging unessential appliances. Taking this simple step can help reduce the amount of power your home uses. If done in multiple homes, it may help shorten the length of the brownout.
 - Being prepared for an outage. Unfortunately, brownouts are not always successful in reducing the load. Keep your home stocked with flashlights, batteries, water, non-perishable food and other emergency items in the event of an extended power outage.
 - Having a fully charged portable power bank on hand. If the power goes out or a brownout lasts more than a few hours, you can use your mobile device to let us know about the issues you are experiencing. It is also good to have a fully charged cell phone on hand in case of an emergency.
- For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.*



Clinton County Electric Cooperative does their part to help osprey population

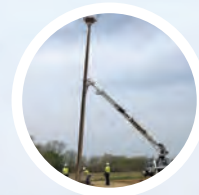
Back in May, Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) linemen Jacob Haselhorst, John Schroeder and Kyle Wiegmann aided in the construction of a nesting platform for a bird known as an osprey at Hazlet State Park.

The osprey is currently on the endangered species list in Illinois and migrates through the state, nesting along rivers and lakes. The bird is a carnivore, mainly eating fish. It hunts primarily from a common perch or nest in a large tree, and once a nest is built it may be used for more than a year. The long-term goal is to get the species' status changed from endangered to threatened and eventually delisted. Part of the plan to get the osprey off the endangered list is to increase the number

of useable nesting locations.

With that plan in mind, Phil Borsdorf, a natural heritage biologist with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), contacted CCEC Operations Superintendent Brian Taylor and requested CCEC's assistance with constructing a nesting platform, and CCEC was happy to help. So, the next time you are visiting Hazlet State Park and see an osprey or an osprey nesting platform, know your cooperative did their part in the osprey recovery effort.

CCEC Linemen John Schroeder, Jacob Haselhorst and Kyle Wiegmann, along with Operations Superintendent Brian Taylor are pictured next to the newly constructed osprey nest at Hazlet State Park.



Considering Solar? Call us first!

As interest in "green" energy and ways to save money on utility bills continue to grow, some cooperative members may be considering the installation of a solar array.

Since these types of systems have the capability of returning electricity back to the electric grid, there are some major safety considerations to sort through before a system is installed.

Before deciding to buy a solar array, examine the economics to determine if such a system will lower your monthly electricity costs. If you do decide to install a solar array, contact our office as early as possible in the process.

A CCEC representative will provide information on our interconnection process and policies, as well as answer any questions you may have. That way, you and your installer will have the information needed as you progress with your system.

For more information on CCEC policies and requirements, please contact our office Monday through Friday, between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 800-526-7282.



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