

Arrival of the quarantine crew

Will it be Generation C (coronavirus), Generation Q (quarantine), Quaranteenies, Pandemials or Coronials? The jury is still out on what we will call the generation brought on by the COVID-19 lockdown. **10115B4-404A**

Three of our linemen did not get the social distancing memo! We are glad to welcome their additions to the cooperative family this year. Pictured left to right is Gabe and Lillian, Brandon and Jaxon, and Joe and Tucker.



IT'S A GIRL
EST. 2021

LILLIAN
ANNE WILLIAMS

APRIL 20	9 POUNDS
	8 OUNCES
	20.5 INCHES

Parents: Gabe & Allison
-Gabe is an Apprentice Lineman at MPC-

IT'S A BOY
EST. 2021

JAXON
JAMES COUSINS

MAY 14	7 POUNDS
	10 OUNCES
	19¾ INCHES

Parents: Brandon & Emily
-Brandon is a Journeyman Lineman at MPC-
Big sister: Mackenzie

IT'S A BOY
EST. 2021

TUCKER
BENJAMIN WERNSMAN

JUNE 2	8 POUNDS
	1 OUNCE
	20.5 INCHES

Parents: Joe & Chelsea
-Joe is a Journeyman Lineman at MPC-
Big brother: Jace



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The power of human connections



Don't fall victim to utility scams

Every day, millions of Americans are targeted by scammers through phone calls, emails, text messages, online or in person. Scammers' tactics can change daily, which is why it's important for consumers to stay on top of the latest scam reports from local and national news outlets, as well as your local utility companies.

In many cases, co-op members are targeted through a phone scam where the scammers demand immediate payment and threaten to shut off power if the money was not received. Remember, McDonough Power Cooperative will never call you and demand immediate payment without notice.

We want you to be aware of two trending scam tactics. One is the overpayment trick, where a scammer contacts you and claims that you have overpaid your utility bill. The scammer will say they need your personal banking information to deposit the credit back to your checking account. Don't fall for this scam! If you make an overpayment on your energy bill, McDonough Power will automatically apply the credit to your account, which will carry over to your next billing cycle. **919A7-452A**

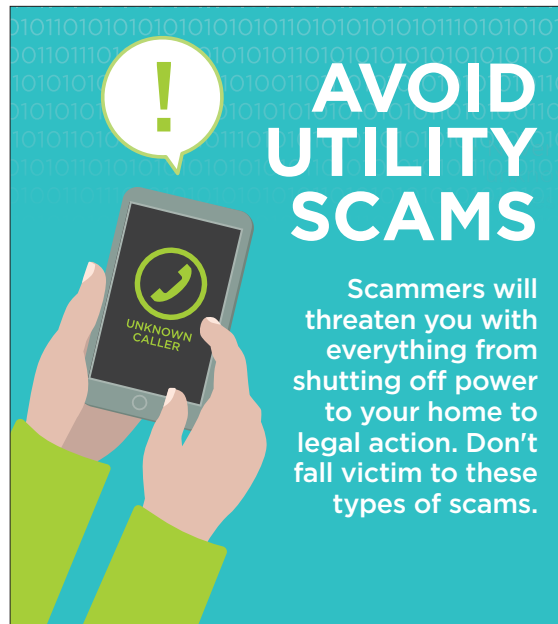
Another trending scam is smishing (short for SMS phishing). Many consumers know to watch out for suspicious emails, but we tend to trust text messages sent to our smartphones. Always question suspicious texts, especially

from someone claiming to represent a utility. These are just a couple examples of trending scams, so it's important to watch for any red flags.

Here are a few reminders on how to take control of the situation when you've been targeted by a scammer:

- **Take your time.** Utility scammers try to create a sense of urgency so that you'll act fast and hand over personal information, especially over the phone. Take a moment to think about the situation before acting.
- **Be suspicious.** Scammers typically request immediate payments through prepaid debit cards or third-party apps. Unusual requests like this should raise red flags. Remember, if the request seems strange and out of the ordinary, you're likely being targeted by a scammer.
- **Confirm before you act.** If you're contacted by someone claiming to represent McDonough Power or another utility but you're unsure, just hang up the phone and call the utility directly. You can reach us at (309) 833-2101 to verify the situation.

Our increasingly connected world provides scammers with more opportunities to connect with unsuspecting consumers. Be vigilant, and please report any utility scams to McDonough Power so we can let others in our community know. Together, we can help prevent our friends and neighbors from being victimized.



- Our employees will never show up at your door to demand payment without prior notice.
- Never give personal information to an unknown caller or visitor. Our representatives have access to the details they need to service your account.
- Demands for immediate payment by wire transfer, cryptocurrency, gift cards or cash reload cards should immediately raise red flags.
- If you think you've been contacted by a scammer falsely representing the co-op, please let us know as soon as possible.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat (like clothes dryers and dishwashers) during the evening when it's cooler.

This will minimize indoor heat during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest.



A balanced fuel mix promotes power reliability

As I've noted before in my past columns, the energy industry is undergoing a dramatic transformation as consumer demand for more renewable energy sources grows, and innovation and technology continue to advance exponentially. You're likely witnessing this energy evolution first-hand.

In driving across the region, you may have noticed fields of solar panels and wind turbines, along with an increase in solar panels on your neighbors' roofs. Maybe you've heard about the impending changes in the transportation sector with most major vehicle companies announcing plans to offer more electric vehicles at more affordable prices. **10235D9-302C**

Consumer interest in renewable energy is strong and growing. In addition, national studies indicate that consumers have an expectation that companies operate in an ethical and responsible manner—including when it comes to the environment.

At McDonough Power Cooperative, we have always put the good of our community first. While our primary function is to provide reliable and affordable energy to our members, we are more than an electricity provider. Because we are a co-op, our mission is to enrich the lives of our members and to serve the long-term interests of our community. We feel we're doing both by investing in renewable energy sources.

Green energy is certainly not new. Solar, wind and hydro power have been around for decades. However, the recent innovations and advances in renewable technology have led to sharp decreases in cost, making it more feasible and accessible. In recent years, McDonough Power has been able to adjust our fuel mix by utilizing more



Mike Smith
President and CEO

renewables through our wholesale power supplier, Prairie Power, Inc. Today, a portion of our fuel mix is comprised of renewable energy sources, the majority of which is wind. That has increased over the past 10 years.

However, to borrow a nautical analogy, it takes a long time to turn the direction of a large ship—

and changing the energy mix we use to power homes and businesses doesn't happen overnight. While renewable energy use is increasing, we will still depend on traditional forms of energy to keep power flowing reliably to your home. After all, solar and wind energy are referred to as "intermittent" power since the sun does not always shine and the wind does not always blow. This fact coupled with the growing demand for renewables creates its own challenges. That's why there is real value in maintaining a balanced mixture of fuel types to ensure reliability, resiliency and meet the growing demand for electricity.

As the energy industry continues to evolve, McDonough Power along with Prairie Power is striving to take advantage of technology advances and market opportunities as they become available. This means McDonough Power can leverage the flexibility of the grid to offer a wider range of renewable power selections as we continue to bring safe, reliable and affordable power to our community.

Albert Einstein once observed, "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." For McDonough Power to meet the growing demand for renewable energy and ensure the reliability of our power supply, we must constantly make operational adjustments as we strive for balance and a brighter future for our members.

Macomb Woman's Club and Illinois Extension recycling questionnaire

All McDonough County residents and business owners are asked to participate in a short online survey regarding recycling. Visit go.illinois.edu/RecycleMcDonough

By participating in this short survey, you can help make recycling a possibility, making McDonough County a better place for us and our grandchildren. 539B6A-266B


Thanks for your assistance with this project.



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY
— ★ ★ ★ —

4th of July

Our office will be closed on Monday, July 5 to observe Independence Day.



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.