

THE GRID

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

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To Report an Outage
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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Cool Ideas for a Hot Summer

You've heard the expression, "some like it hot," but you don't want it to be hot in your home this summer. You can keep your home cool and reduce electric costs by abiding by these simple rules.

- ✿ On the hottest days, turn your thermostat to a warmer setting.
- ✿ Limit use of dishwashers, clothing dryers, ovens and basically anything that generates heat to the coolest parts of the day.

- ✿ Use ceiling and box fans to make the most efficient use of your air conditioner.
- ✿ Make sure your entire family understands how and why to conserve electricity.

For more energy efficient tips, call your local Touchstone Energy cooperative.

Electric cooperatives of Illinois ... powerful solutions for more than 80 years.

Save the DATE



Save the Date for our Member Celebration & Annual Meeting set for **Friday, Oct 7, 2022**

Gloving Training held April 4-8 for CMEC Lineworkers



Linemen Mitch Stanciu (left) and Brock Cook

REMINDER

Nominating Petitions for Districts One and Seven are due August 8, 2022. Interested members may contact us: info@cmeccoop.

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.



Good Eats

We wait and countdown to the opening of The Great Pumpkin Patch each fall, but did you know the Homestead Bakery is open all year? They are located in Amish Country near The Great Pumpkin Patch at 1749 CR 1900 N, Arthur. They are open Tuesday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. and online at the200acres.com. They are famous for their iced pumpkin cookies but have a full line



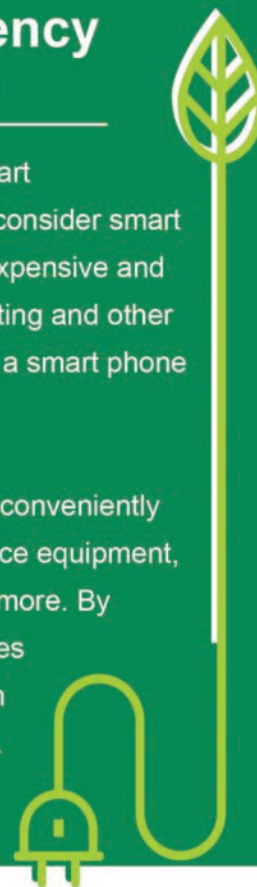
of made-from-scratch breads, cinnamon rolls and 18 flavors of angel food cake.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

If you're looking to add smart technology to your home, consider smart plugs. Smart plugs are inexpensive and can be used to control lighting and other electronic devices through a smart phone app.

With smart plugs, you can conveniently manage lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. By powering off unused devices when you're away, you can save energy (and money!).

Source: energystar.gov



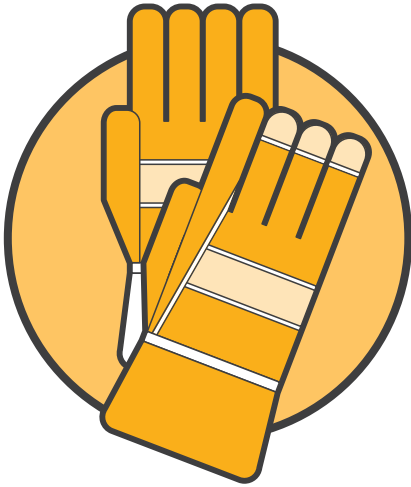


Making Time

Mike and Kay House, of Ashmore, have been CMEC members their entire married life and farmed until they had to stop because of age and health. With more time on their hands, a friend suggested making something out of old farm equipment. Mike started making clocks out of farm planter plates and shell boxes. His hobby soon expanded to include John Deere dinner plates, graniteware, tin signs and more. Folks were impressed and started ordering clocks for Christmas presents. He welcomes ideas and can put a clock in about anything. For more information contact 217-254-2183.

Five Tips for Hiring an Electrician

A licensed electrician can help with a variety of home projects from lighting upgrades to full renovations. Keep the following tips in mind if you're looking to hire an electrician.



- 1. Hire a licensed, qualified electrician for the job.**
 Look for a master electrician to manage the project. Master electricians have the most experience and will often oversee the work of a journey-level electrician or apprentice.
- 2. Make sure the electrician is insured.**
 Seasoned electricians know the importance of protecting themselves in case of an accident.
- 3. Read *all* the reviews.**
 Hire an electrician that has several positive reviews - not just one or two. Read reviews on different sites, like Nextdoor, Yelp and HomeAdvisor, and consider asking your neighbors for recommendations.
- 4. Determine your budget. Get two quotes.**
 Knowing your budget upfront helps move the process along. Prices can greatly vary, so get multiple quotes (at least two).
- 5. Talk timeline.**
 Some electricians accidentally overbook projects. If your job is time-sensitive, convey that early on and discuss a realistic timeline with the electrician.

If You Feel a Shock, Swim Away from the Dock

“If you feel a shock, swim away from the dock,” is a good thing to remember when swimming. Knowing what to do if water becomes electrified can help swimmers avoid an invisible hazard called electric shock drowning (ESD).

Outdated wiring and a lack of proper safety equipment on boats and docks can cause situations where electricity seeps or leaks into the water. It is a particularly dangerous hazard because it is impossible to tell by looking if water is energized. According to the Electric Shock Drowning Prevention Association, between 10 and 15 milliamps, which is just 1/50 the wattage of a 60-watt light bulb, can cause drowning. The association also reports that most ESD deaths have occurred in public and private marinas and docks.

Safe Electricity recommends that individuals do not swim around docks with electrical equipment or boats plugged into shore power. If you are in the water and feel electric current, shout to let others know, try to stay upright, tuck your legs up to make yourself smaller, and swim away from anything that could be energized. Do not swim to boat or dock ladders to get out.

If you see someone who you suspect is getting shocked, do not immediately jump in to save them. Throw them a float, turn off the shore power connection or unplug shore power cords. Try to eliminate the source of electricity as quickly as possible; then call 911 for help.

Safe Electricity, along with the American Boat and Yacht

Council (ABYC) and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers/National Electrical Contractors Association, recommends adhering to these steps in order to enhance water recreation safety and accident prevention:

- All electrical installations and maintenance should be performed by a professional electrical contractor familiar with marine codes and standards and inspected at least once a year.
- Docks should have GFCI breakers on the circuits feeding electricity to the dock.
- The metal frame of docks should be bonded to connect all metal parts to the alternating current (AC) safety ground at the power source.
- Neighboring docks can also present a shock hazard. Make your neighbors aware of the need for safety inspections and maintenance. Marinas should comply with NFPA and NEC codes. **Justin Erickson**
- Have your boat's electrical system checked at least once a year. Boats should also be checked when something is added to or removed from their systems.
- Boats with AC systems should have isolation transformers or equipment leakage circuit interrupter (ELCI) protection, comply with ABYC standards and be serviced by an ABYC Certified Technician.

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



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