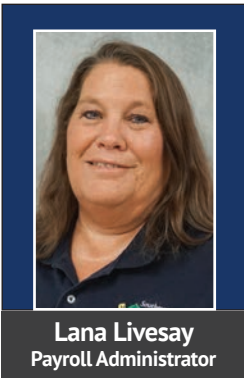


JAMUP

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Back To School!



Just a few short months ago, "School's out!" was a common celebration, but now summer is coming to an end, and many are preparing to head back to school. It means changing rou-

tines, getting up earlier, and makes for a much busier schedule. Families are enjoying their last vacation, or last day in the pool, while anxiously awaiting what the new school term will bring. For students, August means buying school supplies and new clothes. These items have now include electronic devices, headphones and many new-age items.

When we think about the anticipation of a new school year, school supplies are not the only things that have changed in the last decade. Educational tools have gone from paperback workbooks and textbooks to Chromebooks or laptops, classrooms have been bedrooms, kitchen counters, or even parking lots offering internet access. In the past, students would receive their assignments on the chalkboard, then using card catalogs, index cards or encyclopedias, they would complete research. Students are now finding all their assignments and completing research on electronic devices that can be used anywhere – with internet connection. Wi-Fi has become the new "necessary tool" for schoolwork, both in the classroom and at home. This is why Southern Illinois Electric is proud to

be partnering with WK&T to further our service territory's access to reliable internet and help provide children the ability to take advantage of these technological learning tools.

With more electronic devices in use, children are able to stay in touch with friends and relatives all summer long. Cell phones have also made it easier for parents to "keep watch" of their children when they are out and about. Sometimes we find that these same electronic devices that provide opportunity and convenience can prevent children from enjoying the outdoors. For example, playing hopscotch, jumping rope or riding bicycles around the neighborhood used to be common summer activities. In today's world, they can play similar games on a virtual device with their friends, without stepping foot outside. Take time to show your kids a game or activity you enjoyed as a child. This is a

great way to connect with them while they enjoy that fresh air and sunshine!

As we reflect on the changes over the years, whether it be shopping online or submitting your homework from a tablet, society has definitely evolved over time. Regardless if you'd rather spend time outside or in the virtual world, deposit a check at the bank or from your smartphone, we can all agree that changes are inevitable. That doesn't mean we can't bring the best parts of the past along with us for the ride. Enjoy this last taste of summer, and try something new, or old!

As the beginning of a new semester begins, we ask you to please be aware of school buses collecting students and children who walk or bike to school, and always slow down in school zones! From all of us here at SIEC, we hope that each of our territory's students and teachers has a safe and productive school year! **Robert W. McAlister**



7 CAMPUS SAFETY TIPS



Every College Student Should Know

Relay these safety tips to your young adults who are about to hit campus for the first time or return for another year.

1. Do not overload electrical outlets, power strips or extension cords. Use power strips with an overcurrent protector.
2. Be aware of your surroundings, especially when listening to music or texting.
3. Unplug small appliances when not in use and all appliances when away for extended periods.
4. This tip still holds true: never walk alone at night.
5. Avoid using generic cubes or cords. They could overheat, shock or burn you.
6. Locate the emergency call buttons or phones across campus in case of an emergency.
7. Do not put your cell phone on or under your pillow or bedding. It could overheat or catch fire.



Safe
Electricity.org®

Sending a child to college? Discuss safety first

When you are shopping for dorm room supplies, décor, snacks and other back-to-campus items, take a moment to discuss safety tips with your child before hugs and goodbyes.

Here are some safety topics to help keep your college student safe.

Electrical safety tips:

- When shopping for items that run on electricity, look for a safety endorsement label, such as UL (Underwriters Laboratories).
- Do not put a cell phone under a pillow or place it on or under bedding. It could overheat or catch fire.
- In the dorm or apartment, make sure outlets near water sources are equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). If they are not, contact the resident assistant, campus housing staff or landlord. (Look for a test and reset button on the face of the outlet.)
- Use power strips with an over-current protector that will shut off power if too much current is drawn.
- Avoid overloading extension cords, power strips or outlets.
- Do not hang decorative lights with nails or tacks; always use plastic hooks.
- Do not run electrical cords across traffic paths or under rugs.

General safety tips:

- Find out what type of public safety department is on campus and how it functions; ask which services the department offers and the steps it takes to prevent crime.
- Locate emergency call buttons or phones across campus in case of an emergency.
- Walk with a friend, especially at night.
- When attending events or parties, go with at least one person you know and trust. If your friend leaves, do not stay.
- Always be aware of your surroundings.
- Avoid being distracted (listening to music, texting and so on) while walking on campus.
- Find out what types of mental health services or counseling the campus offers.

To learn more about electrical safety tips, go to SafeElectricity.org.

2022 Electricity Camps

Through Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative's partnership with 4-H and the University of Illinois Extension Office, students around our service territory continue to learn about safely utilizing electricity, the dangers of electrical lines and equipment, as well as what a career as a lineman is like. Camps were held at four different schools this summer: Century, Egyptian, Meridian and Massac elementary schools. A special thanks to Kristi Stout and Dena Wood for organizing each camp, and to the



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION



SIEC employees who coordinated and presented to the students at each school! SIEC proudly supports this program, and with our \$1,000 donation, will help the continuation of providing electricity safety education to youth within our service territory! **Eric D. Hargan!**



Member prize

In this issue of the JAMUP, we printed the names of three SIEC members who are eligible to receive a \$10 credit toward their utility bill. If you find your name printed in this center section and it's not part of the story, call Bree with your account number at **800-762-1400** to claim your prize.

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BLOOD DRIVE

*Monday, August 8th at First Baptist Church,
Metropolis, IL 11:30am - 5:30pm*

*SIEC Members who donate will receive
(1) \$10 Bill Credit per household*

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

An easy way to save energy is to seal air leaks and holes where plumbing pipes run through walls in your home. You can also check wall-mounted cabinets for plumbing holes or air gaps in the back.

Fill any holes or gaps with spray foam. Wear protective gloves and use a damp rag for cleanup.

Source: Dept. of Energy

