



Mike Smith
President and CEO



MEMORIAL DAY
USA

★ REMEMBER AND HONOR ★

**Office closed for Memorial Day
on Monday, May 29.**

May is Military Appreciation Month

Service. Mission. Country. You likely identified immediately (and correctly) that these three words describe our nation's veterans. They also succinctly describe a core co-op ethos. **5333A9-1212C**

While veterans are innately motivated to serve, in a similar vein, electric co-ops are guided by foundational principles that put their community first. After all, electric co-ops were founded to bring electricity to rural areas where there was none. In doing so, they powered local economies and helped them to thrive. I believe this close connection to an essential mission is why there are so many veterans in the utility industry and why they are such a great fit for electric co-ops.

Today's veterans are highly skilled because everyone who joins the military is either trained in a tech career field or exposed to advanced technology during their years of service. Many veterans have skills in advanced disciplines such as engineering, electronics and mechanics, which are all beneficial for the utility industry. McDonough Power Cooperative is proud to employ veterans, and we're especially grateful for their contributions to the co-op and to our community.

Leadership and teambuilding skills

Our veteran colleagues joined the co-op equipped with training in leadership and teamwork. That's because while on active duty within their units, servicemen and women work closely together because they know their lives depend on each other's actions. This fosters a high level of self-discipline, a sense of personal responsibility and a passion for excellence.

The utility industry is increasingly complex and is undergoing a profound transformation. While there are the traditional

engineering and vegetation management aspects of the utility industry, it now also encompasses technology, cybersecurity and the electrification of the transportation sector and other areas of the economy. Veterans are adept at responding to changing conditions and learning and adapting to new technologies, which is essential in our evolving industry.

Mission-oriented outlook

Working for an electric co-op is more than a job. There is a clear mission in the work — to help our consumer-members and the community. When you work so closely with the community, you can't help but feel a sense of commitment and responsibility to our members. It's similar to the sense of duty and responsibility that veterans experience in the military. They feel deep, personal responsibility and commitment to their co-op team members and to the members we serve. Veterans are trustworthy, goal-oriented; they want to do right for their co-op and their community.

May is Military Appreciation Month and at McDonough Power, we are grateful to have veterans within our ranks, and we are proud to serve them and their families within our community. But beyond our gratitude, we demonstrate our deep appreciation through our actions and ongoing commitment to veterans and their families.

At the national level, electric co-ops support the "Vets Power Us" program, which is aimed at employing and honoring veterans and their families. This effort involves partnering with other electric co-ops across the country, along with the Department of Labor, the Department of

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Office hours:
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**All Co-op Electric
Outages 309-837-1400**

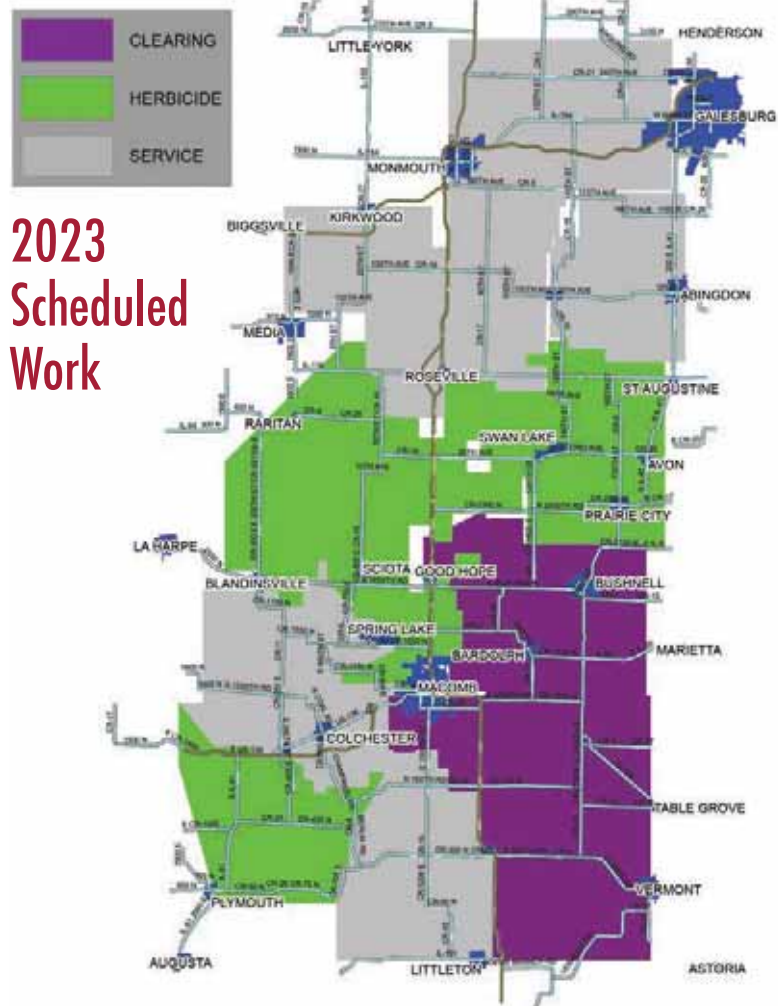
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections



Right-of-way clearing in McDonough Power Cooperative service territory

Spoon River Electric Cooperative (SREC) has been contracted to perform vegetation management in the following areas beginning in June and continuing through the summer and fall. See the map for details. This work might include cutting, trimming, mowing and application of environmentally safe herbicides. Vegetation management

work is necessary to protect the integrity of the electric system and to prevent potential safety hazards. SREC personnel are licensed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture and are experienced in all aspects of tree pruning and herbicide application. If you have any concerns regarding work to be done in your area, please contact our office at 309-833-2101.



2023 Scheduled Work

“May is Military Appreciation Month” continued from page 18A

Defense, the Veterans Administration and others to hire veterans in the energy industry. **5328A9-1212C**

May is Military Appreciation Month, and I hope you'll join me in recognizing

the sacrifices veterans have made to our great country — and the many contributions they continue to make to our wonderful community. Veterans, we salute you!

Protect you, your neighbor and your community: Prevent grass and brush fires

Grass and brush are excellent fuels for fire, making fires involving ground cover and foliage extremely dangerous and destructive. Grass and brush fires, which are often referred to/generalized as wildfires in the U.S., can travel up to 15.5 miles per hour and can spread to tens of thousands of acres within a few hours of ignition. In North America, the peak season for grass and brush fires is between June and August, but they can occur year-round. While they are most common in desert areas and locations experiencing prolonged drought, grass and brush fires can occur anywhere that weather conditions are dry and winds are high.

Grass and brush fires can occur naturally when lightning strikes the ground or when high winds bring down power lines, both of which can cause a spark and ignite a fire. However, 85% of wildfires are caused by humans. The more common causes include burning debris, using hot equipment on grass, improperly discarding cigarettes, leaving campfires unattended and intentionally setting a fire.

To keep your family safe from grass and brush fires, follow these safety tips:

- Be aware of any Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches issued by the National Weather Service.
- Never build a campfire, shoot fireworks, burn debris, use a barbecue pit or initiate a controlled burn when warnings are in effect. Before engaging in any of these activities, check local ordinances.
- If engaging in these activities, never leave the area unattended and keep



a shovel, bucket of water, fire extinguisher or other fire suppression tools on hand.

- If you see a downed power line or other damaged electrical equipment, call 911 and McDonough Power Cooperative at (309) 837-1400 immediately. Never approach a downed power line or try to move one; stay at least 50 feet away from the area and warn others to do the same.
- Do not park cars, trucks, boats or recreational vehicles on dry grass or shrubs. Always keep vehicles properly maintained to avoid sparking and overheating.
- Use an approved spark arrester on all internal combustion engine-powered equipment used on your property, such as lawnmowers, chainsaws, tractors and trimmers. Check and replace spark arresters periodically. **8422B3-674B**

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

How to control a controlled burn

Controlled burns (also known as prescribed fires) can often get out of hand and quickly accelerate. When planning controlled burns, follow these safety tips:

- Do your research before you begin. There are many safety considerations; check with local authorities and fully research all aspects of a controlled burn before implementing one.
- Be sure to acquire any necessary safety permits and follow any local ordinances related to controlled burns.
- Notify your local fire department and neighbors about the controlled burn ahead of time. **4213C7-1114A**
- Check the forecast for weather conditions, such as wind direction and speed, as well as humidity (generally, relative humidity should be 40 percent or higher).
- Do not initiate a controlled burn during a Red Flag Warning, Fire Weather Watch or any other fire ban.
- Clear all vegetation and weeds at least 4 feet around the base of any electric utility pole in the affected area, then wet the base of the poles with water before beginning your burn.
- After any controlled burn, be sure to inspect the electric utility poles for damage. Fire damage is usually evident by blackening or scorch marks; however, even slight discoloration can indicate a serious problem. Sometimes, the poles burn from the inside out, and the damage is not immediately apparent.
- If your fire gets out of control, gets too close to a power pole, or if the pole catches on fire, call 911 and McDonough Power Cooperative at 309-837-1400.
- Once a fire breaks out, never spray water near the pole, power lines or any other utility equipment.

To inquire about controlled burns near power lines and poles, contact McDonough Power Cooperative at 309-837-1400.

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

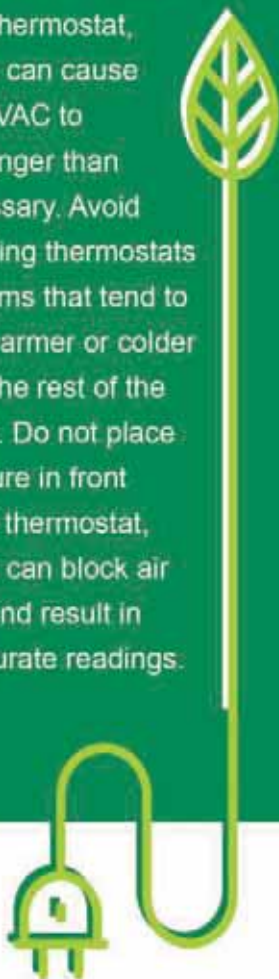


**McDonough Power Cooperative
Annual Meeting**

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The location of your thermostat can impact your HVAC system's ability to maintain an ideal indoor temperature. For maximum accuracy, thermostats should be placed in the center of the home, away from air vents, plumbing pipes and exterior doors. Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat, which can cause the HVAC to run longer than necessary. Avoid installing thermostats in rooms that tend to feel warmer or colder than the rest of the home. Do not place furniture in front of the thermostat, which can block air flow and result in inaccurate readings.



A Safe, Happy House

Four Easy Ways to Boost Electrical Safety at Home

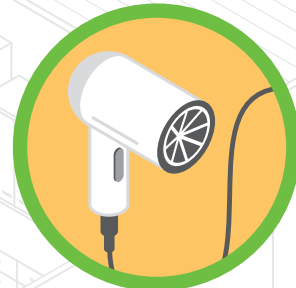
DON'T

place flammable items, like potholders, napkins or dish towels near the stove while cooking.



DO

keep electrical devices away from water to prevent electric shock.



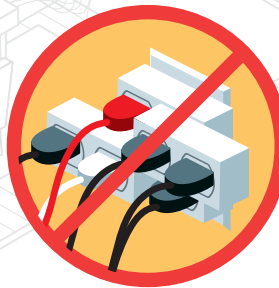
DO

ensure you're using the correct wattage in all light fixtures.



DON'T

overload electrical outlets with more devices than the circuit can handle.



May is National Electrical Safety Month.

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.