

SPOON RIVER news

A publication of Spoon River Electric Cooperative • Canton, IL • www.srecoop.org

President's Report



William R. Dodds
President/CEO

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At this month's Annual Meeting of Members, Spoon River Electric Cooperative awarded three college scholarships to students of our members. One of those was the Scott Parrish Memorial Scholarship, given in honor of former board director Scott Parrish.

Scholarships are just one of the ways our cooperative is committed to our community. In July, I was pleased to present Fulton County Fair Queen Rachel Bull with a trophy when she won the pageant that featured many bright young ladies from our area. Our cooperative helps sponsor the fair queen pageant because it is a positive experience for all the girls who enter.

Also over the summer, two Lewistown High School students, Ben Neuendorf and Eve Shafer, were sponsored by our cooperative for a weeklong tour of Washington, DC, where they learned more about our government. They were selected from a larger group that we sponsored on a trip to Springfield to learn about state government.

Why is commitment to community important to cooperatives? It's because we are member-owned and service to our members is our top priority. The primary service we provide you is safe, affordable and reliable electricity. But we're also able to provide experiences and opportunities to children of our members that they otherwise might not have.



Spoon River Electric Cooperative President/CEO Bill Dodds presents Miss Fulton County Fair 2011 Rachel Bull with a trophy following her win at the fair queen pageant July 25.

Later this month, our employees will participate in the Canton Friendship Festival parade. We always enjoy dressing up in costumes and handing out candy to the kids who line up eagerly for it. If you see us, remember that the parade is just one of many

ways we try to be a positive part of our community, and that being engaged in the communities we serve is a natural fit for electric cooperatives.



In observance of Labor Day, the office will be **CLOSED** on Monday, September 5th



Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

When buying a new appliance, check the black and yellow EnergyGuide label. This label provides an estimate of the product's energy consumption and efficiency. It also shows the highest and lowest energy efficiency estimates of similar models. Most major appliances—such as refrigerators, dishwashers, and clothes dryers—are required to have these labels.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Spoon River Electric Cooperative

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8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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Spoon River Electric Cooperative – By the Numbers

Miles of line energized: 1,249 • Number of members served: 4,944

Number of power poles in territory: 29,255

Slaying energy vampires

Did you know that you're sharing your home with "energy vampires" — electronic and electrical devices that continue to suck electricity even when turned off? On average, these items are responsible for an estimated 10 percent of the electricity you use every month.

Here's a tip from Spoon River Electric Cooperative that can help you drive a stake through the heart of these vampires, saving energy and money.

One way to identify energy vampires is to look for devices with remote controls — TVs, DVRs, and audio equipment, for example. Then target gaming consoles, computers, monitors, and printers as well as chargers for cell phones, iPods, small DVD players, and laptops. Chargers draw energy even when they're not charging anything.

An easy way to seal the coffin on energy vampires is to plug compo-



nents of your computer or home entertainment system into a power strip. With a single flip of a switch, you can fully cut power to them.

In addition, don't forget to unplug any appliances—such as coffee makers and toaster ovens — with digital clocks when you aren't using

them. As TogetherWeSave.com has shown, pulling plugs and employing power strips can save you \$222 in electric bills per year

For other tips on how to save energy — and money — visit www.TogetherWeSave.com.

Set It and Forget It:

The Benefits of a Programmable Thermostat

A programmable thermostat is one of the quickest, easiest and most inexpensive ways to save on energy bills year-round. Programmable thermostats—which cost between \$50 to \$200— are a smart investment because they can reduce energy costs by as much as 15 percent annually.

A programmable thermostat makes saving energy easy by controlling the heating and cooling settings in both the winter and summer. It's like putting your house on "cruise control" by using pre-programmed settings that regulate the home's temperature during the night and even while you're on vacation. This type of thermostat auto-

matically turns down the heat in the winter and turns up the cooling in the summer. A homeowner can save energy and money while still maintaining overall comfort.

Programmable thermostats are an easy energy-saving tool. Here are a few more energy savings tips:

- Always look for the ENERGY STAR label when buying a new thermostat.
- Use the pre-programmed settings to maximize energy savings.
- Heat pump systems require a special type of programmable thermostat. Consult with Spoon River Mechanical Services at (309) 647-3450 to determine what will work best for your home.

- Be sure to have the thermostat installed correctly using a certified HVAC contractor.

Programmable thermostats offer a lot of value by maximizing energy savings without sacrificing comfort. Best of all, they can be tailored to match a family's schedules. Consult with our HVAC subsidiary Spoon River Mechanical Services to determine what will work best for your home.



**As a subsidiary of
Spoon River Electric Cooperative,
Spoon River Propane is member-owned.**

Spoon River Propane offers:

- 🔥 24-hour emergency service
- 🔥 Competitive pricing
- 🔥 Several flexible payment programs to meet your needs
- 🔥 Outstanding customer service

To learn more call Manager Duane Siegel or Lisa Miller today
at Spoon River Propane -- (309) 649-5462