

WIEC NEWS

P.O. Box 338 ■ Carthage, Illinois 62321 ■ www.wiec.net ■ 800/576-3125

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

WIEC invests in community

Three projects receive USDA funds through WIEC

On March 21, ground was broken on a new Medical Clinic just west of the Memorial Hospital in Carthage. This new office building will be just over 23,500 feet and will house several Family Practices, General Surgical Practice, Evergreen Center for Behavioral Health, Pulmonary Rehabilitation, Specialty Clinics, Fiscal Services, and offer a Community Conference Room. Since it is adjacent to Memorial Hospital, it will be more convenient for patients who may need tests, such as lab work or x-rays as part of their doctor's appointment. The cost for this project will be approximately 6 million.

On March 30, ground was broken for a new Memory Care facility for residents with dementia or any type of cognitive impairment. It will consist of two 9,000 square foot buildings called "small houses". These will be built at the old Memorial Hospital helicopter pad site. The buildings will each consist of ten (10) studio type rooms and offer specialized programming for those with need for memory/ Alzheimer care services. The cost for this project is approximately 4.5 million.

Over the winter, Prairieland Investment Group has been renovating the old student union building on the old Robert Morris College campus. This will be used as a training facility which will bring students in from all over the globe to provide education about practices and equipment



Proposed Memory Care Facility



Proposed Medical Office Building



WIEC Manager Tommie Long (far left) participated in the Medical Office Building ground breaking ceremony.

used in pork production. While they are here, these students will also spend their dollars for food, gas or other necessities pumping dollars into our local (5816-8-8) economy.

With the assistance of Aaron Ridenour of Prairie Power, Inc. our wholesale power provider, WIEC

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Western Illinois
ELECTRICAL COOP.
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

524 North Madison | P.O. Box 338
Carthage, IL 62321
www.wiec.net | 800/576-3125

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday

BUSINESS OFFICE

217-357-3125

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

800-576-3125

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **David Biery** —
President, Carthage
- **Mike Ford** —
Vice President, Lomax
- **Janet Spory** —
Secretary/Treasurer, Sutter
- **Jay Morrison** —
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer,
Burnside
- **Kent Flesner** —
Director, West Point
- **Rob Gronewold** —
Director, Carthage
- **William Newton** —
Director, Burnside

STAFF

- **Tommie Long** — Manager
- **Todd Grotts** — Manager
of Operations
- **Becky Dickinson** — Office
Manager

MAP LOCATION CONTEST

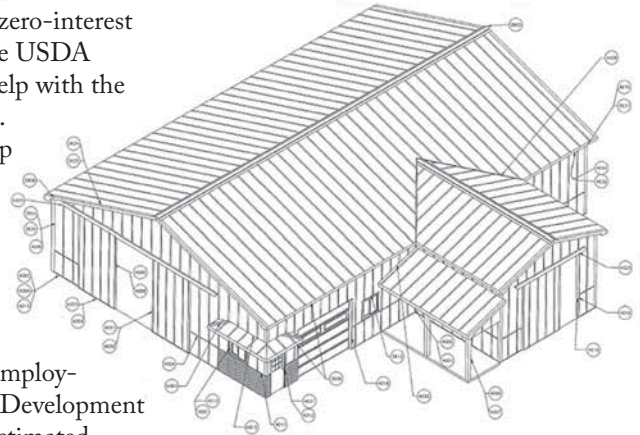
Every month we are printing four member's map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a \$10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.

■ "WIEC invests in community" continued from page 16a

applied for and received zero-interest loans and grants from the USDA Rural Development to help with the funding of these projects.

These projects will keep and possibly add good jobs here in our community, starting in the construction or renovation phase continuing through the hiring or retaining of permanent employees. In the USDA Rural Development loan application, it was estimated that the new Medical Office Building alone could add 25 new jobs and was projected to add new retail businesses and increase sales revenue.

We have lost too many jobs, both in retail and manufacturing in the past. WIEC wants to do everything we can



Proposed PIG Education Center

to see that this trend end so our communities will flourish in the future.

This is our commitment to the communities in which we live.

What is a facility charge on my bill?

A facility charge is the cost of providing basic service to serve each account. This includes maintaining the wires, poles and equipment, the costs of maintaining an office and other "fixed" costs. These costs are shared by all members, whether an account uses 10,000 kWh or none. The current facility charge for Rate 1 is \$26.00. (6613-20)

Memorial Day

WIEC's office will be closed May 26th in observance of Memorial Day.

Employees honored

Recently, four WIEC employees were honored for their ongoing commitment to WIEC and its members.

Those pictured are (l-r) Scott Carle, Journeyman Lineman, 15 years; Todd Grotts, Manager of Operations, 5 years; and Tommie Long, Manager, 35 years and Dave Biery, Board President who made the presentation. (581-9) Also recognized was Tim Shumate, Apprentice Linemen, for his 5 years of service.





WIEC receives safety award

Western Illinois Electrical Coop was honored with a safety award recently during the Safety/Supervisory Technical Conference held in Springfield. The member-owned electric cooperative received the Best Lost Time Record for 2013.

“Our line crew works very hard to accomplish what is necessary to keep our system strong, yet keeping safety as a top priority.” says WIEC Manager Tommie Long.

The conference is sponsored annually by the Association of Illinois

Electric Cooperatives (AIEC). Shown with the award are from left: Cody Grainger, Tim Shumate, Andy Lafeber, Scott Carle, Eric Johnson, Todd Grotts, Tyler Neally, Eric Belshaw, Greg Bolton, Mark Kissinger and Terry Long.

WIEC's 2013 Allocation of Margins

Notices to be mailed out around May 15

One of the major differences between a cooperative and an investor-owned utility is that any monies left over after expenses are paid belong to the members in the form of capital credits. Each year, WIEC sends notification to our members explaining what their share of the previous year's margins would be. This year, members will be receiving their Allocation Notice in the mail around the middle of May. This will tell members the dollar amount of the capital credits they have earned for 2013.

Remember, capital credits are held by the cooperative and will be returned to the member when Western Illinois Electrical Coop's board of directors decide that the coop. is strong enough financially to do so. This is for our members' information only and does not need any action on their part. Please

do not pay the allocation amount or subtract this amount from the bill. If there are any questions, please call our office.

Watch for 2013 Allocation Notices in your mail around May 15



Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

A well-designed landscape provides both energy efficiency and curb appeal for your home. The type of vegetation you choose is as important as where they are planted. Sunlight streaming through windows and bearing down on the roof can drive up air conditioner use. Using shade trees and shrubs in your **(561-48)** landscaping plan can help reduce cooling costs. In the winter, deciduous trees lose their leaves and let in warmth.

Source: Energy.gov

Safe RV Camping Includes Safety around Portable Generators

The great outdoors are...well... great! That is why at this time of year many head out to get some sun and fun by enjoying nature. For some, it means “roughing it” in a well-appointed recreational vehicle with a satellite dish. If you use a portable generator for lights, a TV, or heat—it is imperative that safety precautions against carbon monoxide poisoning be taken.

Steps that can be taken with an RV are to:

- Take a carbon monoxide detector with you. If you own the RV, mount it permanently inside the vehicle and make sure you check that it is working on a regular basis. If you are renting the RV, you can still take a detector with you to warn you of elevated carbon monoxide levels.
- Inspect your RV’s chassis and generator exhaust system regularly, at least before each outing and after bottoming out or any other incident that could cause damage.
- Inspect the RV for openings in the floor or sidewalls. If you locate a hole, seal it with a silicone adhesive or have it repaired before using your generator again.
- Inspect windows, door seals, and weather strips to ensure that they are sealing properly.
- Do not operate your generator if the exhaust system is damaged in any way or if an unusual noise is present.
- Park your RV so that the exhaust may easily dissipate away from the vehicle. Do not park next to high grass or weeds, snow banks, buildings, or other obstructions that might prevent exhaust gases from dissipating as they should.
- Keep in mind that shifting winds may cause exhaust to blow away from the coach one moment and under the coach the next.
- When stopping for long periods of time, be aware of other vehicles around you, such as tractor-trailers at rest stops that may have their engines and refrigerators running.
- Do not sleep with the generator operating.
- Leave a roof vent open anytime the generator is running, even during the winter.
- If you do not feel well, do not be fooled into thinking that it is because you have been driving too long, you ate too much, or you are suffering from motion sickness. Shut off the generator and step outside for some fresh air just to be sure.

If you fear that you are being overcome by carbon monoxide, get to fresh air immediately and seek medical attention. For more information on staying safe around generators and electricity, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Tamper Resistant Receptacles

What are Tamper Resistant Receptacles (TRRs)?

They may look like standard outlets, but tamper resistant receptacles, or TRRs, are different. Their most distinguishable feature – a built-in shutter system that prevents foreign objects from being inserted – sets them apart. Only a plug that applies simultaneous, equal pressure to both slots will disengage the cover plates, allowing access to the contact points. Without this synchronized pressure, the cover plates remain closed.

While a child’s curiosity knows no boundaries, it can sometimes put them in peril, especially when electricity is involved. Located in practically every room of the house, electrical outlets and receptacles are fixtures, but they also

represent potential hazards for children.

In recent years, more homes have been equipping their electrical outlets with TRRs, but in many public facilities, like hospital pediatric wards, these safeguards have been required for more than 20 years. Their efficiency also prompted the National Electrical Code to make TRRs standard in all new home construction. Existing homes can be easily retrofitted with TRRs using the same installation guidelines that apply to standard receptacles. TRRs should only be installed by a licensed electrician and should carry a label from a nationally recognized, independent testing lab such as UL, ETL, or CSA.

TRRs by the Numbers

- Each year 2,400 children suffer severe shock and burns resulting from inserting objects into the slots of electrical receptacles. That’s nearly seven children a day.
- It is estimated that 6-12 child fatalities result from children tampering electrical receptacles.
- Installing a TRR in a newly constructed home is only about 50% more than a traditional receptacle.
- Existing homes can be retrofitted with TRRs for as little as \$2.00 per outlet.

For more information on TRRS, visit www.esfi.org.