

# The Wire

McDonough Power Cooperative • Macomb, Illinois 61455



**Mike Smith**  
President and CEO

*Join us*  
**87TH ANNUAL  
MEETING**   
*Powerful past, future focused*

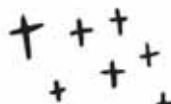


The Crossing - Macomb  
1600 W. Jackson St., Macomb

**AUGUST | 7th | 2024**

Registration & Meal 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
Business Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Food | Entertainment | Prizes





1210 West Jackson Street  
P.O. Box 352  
Macomb, Illinois  
61455-0352

24 hour pay-by-phone  
844-405-1145

www.mcdonoughpower.com

Office hours:  
7 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Weekdays

**Find us on Facebook:**  
@McDonough Power

**Find us on X:**  
@McDonough Power

### DIRECTORS

- Walt Lewis, Chairman
- David Lueck, Vice Chairman
- Mike Cox, Treasurer
- Steve Hall, Secretary
- Courtney Chandler
- Bob Dwyer
- Steve Lynn
- Jeff Moore
- Jerry Riggins
- John D. McMillan, Attorney

**All Co-op Electric  
Outages 309-837-1400**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
The power of human connections



## YOUR VOTE MATTERS 2024

★ Board of Directors Election ★

### Nominating Committee Report

Pursuant to the Bylaws, the members of the nominating committee met at the Sports Corner restaurant in Macomb, Illinois, on June 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., to nominate candidates for election as Directors at McDonough Power Cooperative's next annual meeting of members, to be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2024.

#### The following members were present:

- |              |                |              |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Roger Oliver | Lisa Hood      | Wanda Carson |
| Dan Byers    | Ashley Swedell | Lynn Shimmin |

The committee selected the following nominees to be candidates for Director to serve for a three-year term and to be elected at the annual meeting:


- |                    |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>DISTRICT #2</b> | <b>DISTRICT #5</b> | <b>DISTRICT #8</b> |
| Jennifer Emerick   | Ryan Litchfield    | Bob Dwyer          |

Any 15 or more members acting together may make other nominations by Petition. **5310D3A-260B**

Lisa Hood  
Chairman



**Our office will be closed Thursday, July 4  
for Independence Day.**



**Member Prizes**

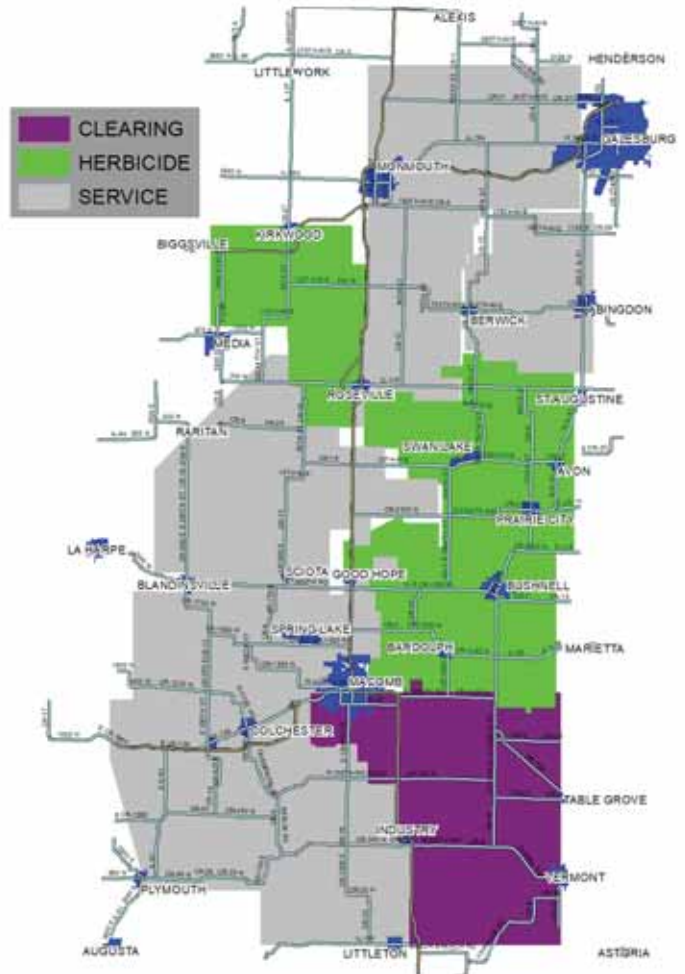
Every month we will have four map location numbers hidden throughout The Wire. If you find the map location number that corresponds to the one on your bill (found above the usage graph), call our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.

## 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 this summer and fall. See the map for details. This work might include cutting, trimming, mowing and application of environmentally safe herbicides. 7222D9-104A 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 concerns about work in your area, please contact our office at 309-833-2101.



### 2024 Scheduled Work



## TIPS FOR INTEGRATING SMART HOME TECH

If you're new to smart home technologies, keep the following tips in mind as you explore home automation options.

- 1. Define goals.** Determine the areas in your home you want to make smart, like lighting, security and entertainment systems.
- 2. Choose compatible devices.** A smart hub can make integration easier with a central device to control multiple smart technologies.
- 3. Check Wi-Fi strength.** Smart home technologies require a stable internet connection to function properly, so consider factors like router placement and signal strength. **539B6B-266B**
- 4. Prioritize security.** Set strong, unique passwords for your Wi-Fi network, set devices to update automatically and limit personal data collection.



# 10 things you might not know about power restoration

**H**ave you ever watched a video or TV show where a person is cooking a meal, then suddenly, they snap their fingers, and the meal is plated and ready to eat? That's called a jump cut.

While we wish we could "jump cut" from a power outage to power restoration, it can often take a lot more effort and people to make it happen.

At McDonough Power Cooperative, we're accustomed to members' questions about power outages and why it can take time to get the lights back on. Given our reliance on electricity, there's simply never a good time to be without it.

This month, we'd like to shed light on our restoration process to help our members understand what may be happening behind the scenes. Here are 10 things you might not know about restoration:

- 1. We need you.** When your power goes out, it might be just at your home or a small section of a neighborhood. There is a chance we may not know about it, and no one has reported it. We rely on you to let us know if your power is out. Always call our outage line at 309-837-1400.
- 2. Our employees might be affected, too.** Because McDonough Power is a local electric cooperative owned by the members we serve, our employees are local, too. They are your neighbors, friends and familiar community volunteers. When you're without power, our people might be, too.
- 3. It's a team effort.** Every one of McDonough Power's employees is working to get your power restored as soon as possible. Our member services representatives are taking your calls, engineers and field staff are surveying damage, our vegetation management team is clearing hazards, dispatchers are organizing crews, and communicators are keeping everyone informed of progress or potential dangers. When your power goes out, we all work together as
- 4. We assess the situation first.** Every outage is different, and we don't know how dangerous it is or what equipment might need to be replaced. When responding to outages, we first need to see what happened, then figure out what materials we need and a plan for how to fix the problem(s) without compromising electric flow for the rest of our members.
- 5. Restoration is normally prioritized by the largest number of members we can get back on in the shortest amount of time.** Our crews focus on responding first to public safety issues and critical services. Then we complete work that impacts the largest number of people first. **101E7A9-408C**
- 6. Our employees face many dangers.** Besides working around high-voltage electricity, our crews are on alert for wild animals, weather elements, falling trees and fast-moving cars. (If you ever drive past one of our vehicles, please do so slowly.)
- 7. Flickering lights are a good thing.** Some folks mistake flickering lights for outages, but these "blinks" are important, because they indicate our equipment worked and prevented a possible outage likely caused by wayward animals or stray tree limbs on the lines.
- 8. You need a backup plan.** We do our best to help those who need it, but if you depend on electricity for life support purposes, you must have a back-up plan — remember, we don't always know how long restoration efforts will take. If you're unsure what to do, call us so we can help you prepare an emergency location.
- 9. Our employees have to plan — and eat.** If you ever see our trucks in a restaurant parking lot while your power is out, know that

quickly and safely as possible to get you back to normal.

sometimes our employees huddle in a safe, common area to map out their plan for getting your power back on. Also, our crews work long, hard hours during outages and need to take time for meals just like everyone else.

## 10. Sometimes it's a waiting game.

Our portion of the power grid is connected to other electric utilities, and we maintain positive relationships with power providers interconnected to our system. If our outage is due to an issue from their feed into our system, we must let them do their repairs and be mindful of what they're going through to fix it.

We do our best to avoid power disruptions, but they are inevitable from time to time. If the lights go out, know that your co-op team is working as quickly and safely as possible to restore power. If you experience an outage, please let us know by reporting it. Call our outage line at 309-837-1400 — we're available 24/7.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Electricity used to operate major appliances accounts for a significant portion of your home energy use. Here's an easy way to lighten the load on your clothes dryer. Before you dry a load of damp clothing, toss in a clean, dry towel. The towel will absorb excess water, shortening the drying time. If your dryer does not include an autosense feature, reduce the timer to about half of what you normally would. Remove the towel about 15 minutes after the cycle begins. Shorter drying times will extend the life of your dryer and save energy.

Source: homesandgardens.com