

JULY 2026

Illinois Country Living

WHERE FREEDOM RINGS

 Association of Illinois
Electric Cooperatives

Your Touchstone Energy®
Member 
aieccoop

FEATURE
A tale of two Concords

PRAIRIE TABLE
A sweet stop

FINEST COOKING
Brown sugar bliss

 CO-OP
NEWS

Eye Doctor Helps Illinois Legally Blind To See

High Technology For Low Vision Patients Allows Many To Drive Again



For many patients with macular degeneration and other vision-related conditions, the loss of central visual detail also signals the end to one of the last bastions of independence: driving. A Mascoutah optometrist, Dr. Marianne McDaniel, is using miniaturized telescopes that are mounted in glasses to help people who have lost vision from macular degeneration and other eye conditions.

"Some of my patients consider me the last stop for people who have vision loss," said Dr. McDaniel, one of only a few doctors in the world who specialize in fitting bioptic telescopes to help those who have lost vision due to macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and other debilitating eye diseases.

Imagine a pair of glasses that can improve your vision enough to change your life. If you're a low vision patient, you've probably not only imagined them, but have been searching for

them. Bioptic telescopes may be the breakthrough in optical technology that will give you the independence you've been looking for. Patients with vision in the 20/200 range can many times be improved to 20/50 or better.

Macular degeneration is the leading cause of blindness and vision loss in people over 50. Despite this, most adults are not familiar with the



A scene as it might be viewed by a person with age-related macular degeneration.

condition. As many as 25% of those over the age of 50 have some degree of macular degeneration. The macula is only one small part of the retina; however, it is the most sensitive and gives us sharp central vision. When it degenerates, macular degeneration leaves a blind spot right in the center of vision, making it difficult or impossible to recognize faces, read a book, or pass the driver's vision test.

Nine out of 10 people who have macular degeneration have the dry form. New research suggests vitamins can help. The British medical journal *BMC Ophthalmology* recently reported that 56% of patients treated with a high-dose combination of vitamins experienced improved vision after six months.

While age is the most significant risk factor for developing the disease, heredity, smoking, cardiovascular disease, and high blood pressure have also been identified as risk factors.

Macular degeneration accounts for 90% of new legal blindness in the U.S. While there is currently no cure, promising research is being done on many fronts. "My job is to figure out everything and anything possible to keep a person functioning, especially driving," says Dr. McDaniel.

"Bioptic telescopes can cost over \$2,000," said Dr. McDaniel, "especially if we build them with an automatic sunglass."

"The major benefit of the bioptic telescope is that the lens automatically focuses on whatever you're looking at," said Dr. McDaniel. "It's like a self-focusing camera, but much more precise."

To learn more about bioptic telescopes or to schedule a consultation, give Dr. McDaniel a call. You can also visit our websites.

www.mascoutaheycare.com

1-618-566-8899

Office located in Mascoutah, Illinois
Marianne McDaniel, O.D.

Illinois Country Living

JULY 2026
VOLUME 84, NO. 3



20 Where freedom rings
Kaskaskia's semiquincentennial significance.

24 A tale of two Concords
Revolutionary reunion unites cousins.

28 A sweet stop
This month, **PRAIRIE TABLE** visits Jenni's Ice Cream and Grill in Lomax.



DEPARTMENTS

4 FIRST THOUGHTS

What is FERC?

Why does it matter to electric co-ops?

7 CURRENTS

This month's highlights

News/Legislation/Trends/Tips

12 DATEBOOK

Mark your calendar

Activities for the whole family to enjoy.

14 SAFETY CHECK

Play it safe

Backyard electrical safety.

16 ENERGY SOLUTIONS

The power of timing

How you can help during peak demand.

18 POWERED UP

Staying one step ahead

The art of forecasting electricity load.

30 FINEST COOKING

Brown sugar bliss

Sweet recipes filled with flavor.

32 GARDENWISE

Rooted in flavor

Perennial herbs that earn their keep.

34 SNAPSHOTS

Summer fun

Readers capture warm-weather activities.

On the cover: The Liberty Bell of the West, located on Kaskaskia Island.

Illinois Country Living is a monthly publication serving the communications needs of the locally owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives of Illinois. With a circulation of more than 200,000, the magazine informs cooperative consumer-members about issues affecting their electric cooperative and the quality of life in rural Illinois.

PRESIDENT/CEO
Craig Sondgeroth

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
Rick Rubenacker

EDITOR
Colten Bradford

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Lisa Cherry

VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATIONS
Chris Reynolds

CREATIVE SERVICES
COORDINATOR
Kayla Adkins

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS
Jen Danzinger
Meghan Jenkins

CONTRIBUTORS
Brittney Haag

SALES REPRESENTATIVE
Cheryl Solomon
Cheryl@amp.coop

Illinois Country Living (ISSN number 1086-8062) is published monthly by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, 6460 S. 6th St. Frontage Road East, Springfield, IL 62712. The cost is \$2.88 plus postage per year for members of subscribing cooperatives and \$12 per year for all others. Periodical postage paid at Springfield, Illinois, and additional mailing offices.

© 2026 Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

COOPERATIVE MEMBERS: Please report changes of address to your electric cooperative. Illinois Country Living staff cannot process address changes.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Illinois Country Living, 6460 S. 6th St. Frontage Road East, Springfield, IL 62712.

ADVERTISING: Acceptance of advertising by the magazine does not imply endorsement by the publisher or the electric cooperatives of Illinois of the product or service advertised. Illinois Country Living is not responsible for the performance of the product or service advertised and reserves the right to refuse any advertising.

icl.coop

800-593-2432 info@icl.coop



Member of AMP network of publications, reaching more than 9 million households and businesses.



What is FERC and why does it matter to electric co-ops?

ELECTRIC CO-OPS WERE FORMED to serve members with affordable, reliable and safe power. But what role does the federal government play in this? The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is an independent agency in Washington, D.C., with authority over the transmission and wholesale sale of electricity in interstate commerce.

The commission also regulates the interstate commerce of natural gas and oil and the siting of natural gas and hydropower facilities. Basically, FERC oversees how energy moves across the country by high-voltage power lines or large pipelines.

So, FERC doesn't regulate your local distribution co-op. But it does exert authority over five generation and transmission co-ops (including Dairyland Power Cooperative that serves areas in Illinois) and all the wholesale electricity markets where co-ops buy their power supply. By setting those markets' transmission rates, which electric power companies — including co-ops — must pay, the agency can ultimately influence retail prices.

The commission's regulations aim at maintaining fair prices within the wholesale electricity markets run by six regional transmission organizations (RTOs) and independent system operators (ISOs). These FERC-regulated RTOs and

ISOs manage parts of the national electric grid.

FERC also monitors these markets for energy supply manipulation that can hike prices. When things go wrong, the commission can investigate and levy penalties. Overall, FERC sides with conserving energy and encourages utilities to find ways to reduce demand.

The commission largely lacks authority over electric transmission in terms of siting and construction. That falls under state and local

authorities. FERC's authority over building generation is also limited to only approving, licensing and inspecting hydropower plants.

Regarding natural gas, FERC has the final say in construction and operation of liquefied natural gas terminals, pipelines and storage facilities. It reviews gas projects in terms of their impact on the environment and the economy.

And, being a public agency, keep in mind all FERC's final decisions can be challenged in court.

When it comes to grid reliability, the buck stops with FERC. The commission directs the national grid watchdog — North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) — and enforces its mandatory reliability rules and requirements on grid operators and owners of the U.S. bulk power system, including utilities and energy producers.

The commission tasked NERC as the electric reliability organization for the continental U.S. after Congress called for a single point of contact following the historic blackout of Aug. 14, 2003, which left more than 50 million people in the Northeast and parts of the Midwest without electricity for several hours to several days.

FERC can require NERC to set new reliability standards or update current rules as needed to protect the grid's ability to serve today's increased demand.

So, who is FERC? The body is made up of five commissioners appointed by the president and confirmed by the U.S. Senate for 5-year terms. The chair presides over open public meetings on the third Thursday of the month, where the commission votes on orders to act on or approve projects or set precedents. You can watch these meetings live at home from the link on the FERC website.

While its regulatory influence may not have a hand directly in co-op operations that serve consumers, FERC does have a role in how co-ops can best serve their members by upholding grid reliability, safety and keeping costs affordable. ⚡



Cathy Cash writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.



WHITETAIL PROPERTIES REAL ESTATE

HUNTING | RANCH | FARM | TIMBER



A DIVISION/TRADE NAME OF
WHITETAIL PROPERTIES REAL ESTATE

LAND SALES & AUCTIONS

ADAM CRUMRIN
EAST CENTRAL ILLINOIS
BROKER, LAND SPECIALIST
217.276.2334



ROD SHEPARD
CENTRAL ILLINOIS
BROKER, LAND SPECIALIST
217.801.5730



CONTACT YOUR LOCAL LAND SPECIALISTS
WHITETAILPROPERTIES.COM



Whitetail Properties Real Estate, LLC DBA Whitetail Properties, DBA
Whitetail Properties Real Estate. Licensed in IL - Debbie S. Laux, Broker.



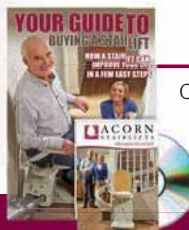
STAY SAFE in the home you love.

*An Acorn Stairlift is the
perfect solution for:*

- ✓ Arthritis / COPD sufferers
- ✓ Those with mobility issues
- ✓ Anyone who struggles with stairs

SPECIAL OFFER

\$250.00
OFF YOUR PURCHASE OF
AN ACORN STAIRLIFT!*



Call today to receive your FREE STAIRLIFT BUYING
GUIDE and your FREE in-home consultation!

1-888-238-9680



Scan the QR code for more information!

*Not valid on previous purchases. Not valid with any other offers or discounts. Not valid on refurbished models. Only valid towards purchase of a NEW Acorn Stairlift directly from the manufacturer. \$250 discount will be applied to new orders. Please mention this ad when calling. AZ ROC 278722, CA 942619, MN LC670698, OK 50110, OR CCB 198506, RI 88, WA ACORNSI8940B, WV WV049654, MA HIC169936, NJ 13VH07752300, PA PA101967, AK 134057, CT HIC 0656293





HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

250th

ANNIVERSARY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Touchstone Energy®
The power of human connections

JULY CHECKLIST

Vacation energy savings

Unplug.

Before you leave for vacation, unplug electronics and chargers that draw power even when they're turned off.



Set the thermostat.

Just a few degrees higher in summer can save money and energy. There's no need to cool an empty home.

Use a timer.

Turn off unnecessary lights and use timers on a few lamps if you'd like your home to appear occupied.



Upgrade.

Smart thermostats and smart plugs can help you monitor and manage energy use from anywhere while you're away from home.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NRECA

REA at 90 years

Celebrating the landmark law that birthed rural electrification

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and electric co-op leaders joined officials from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) at the end of May to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Rural Electrification Act (REA), the law that helped deliver power across rural America.

The REA was a New Deal Era effort to provide low-cost federal loans for building electric distribution systems in rural areas to revive America's economy in the wake of the Great Depression.

The law drove the creation of electric cooperatives throughout the U.S. and laid the foundation for the USDA's Rural Utilities Service (RUS), which provides financing for co-op infrastructure to this day. That support is crucial as co-ops gear up to meet growing demand while maintaining reliable, affordable service.

That partnership "is more important today than it's ever been. These investments in rural America still matter greatly," NRECA CEO Jim Matheson said. "They're critical to promoting reliability, affordability, economic opportunity and quality of life in rural America."

The REA, signed into law on May 20, 1936, was one of the most impactful pieces of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal reforms. When the REA was enacted, only 10% of U.S. farms and rural homes had electricity. Today, that has risen to about 99%.

The law also helped transform the Rural Electrification Administration — the forerunner to the modern-day RUS — from a relief agency to a lasting program to provide loans for rural electrification, supporting the creation and growth of co-ops.

The REA "allowed us to truly stitch our country together," Agriculture Deputy Secretary Stephen Vaden said. "It was our quick adoption of electric power throughout rural America that helped to create the innovation and the great economic growth that our country experienced throughout the 20th century."

Today, more than 900 electric co-ops are operating across the country and modernizing their systems to improve cost and reliability for the 42 million Americans they serve. About 200 electric co-ops are also building or operating broadband networks to deliver high-speed internet access to rural America.

In 1994, Congress reorganized the Rural Electrification Administration into RUS, which delivers on the REA's original mission through three core programs to support electric, telecommunications and water infrastructure.

"Investment in rural utility infrastructure ... is as important to rural life and the national economy today as it ever was," said Chris McLean, assistant administrator for the RUS Electric Loan Program. "Few federal programs have been as successful as the Rural Electrification Act."

Even with the strides co-ops have made to power rural America, the partnership between RUS and co-ops remains essential. The RUS electric loan program ensures co-ops can build and upgrade the infrastructure needed to power a changing rural America while keeping rates affordable. 💡

Molly Christian, NRECA

Sudoku

by Myles Mellor and Susan Flanagan

To solve the puzzle, each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Level: Medium

Solution on page 33.

4			6					
6				8		9		5
9			1		3	2		8
7		9	5	2				3
	5			9	6	7		1
8		6	7		5			2
5		1		6				4
				4				3



Tamara Phillips, retiring Norris Electric Cooperative general manager, passes the keys to the co-op to her successor Luke Johnson, former CEO of Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

ILLINOIS TRIVIA CHALLENGE



It's time to test your knowledge with a new Illinois Trivia Challenge! In honor of the nation's 250th anniversary, this month's questions are about Illinois and its role in the Revolutionary War. Answers are on page 33.

- During the American Revolution, the Illinois Country, as it was then known, was primarily controlled by which nation?
 - Spain
 - France
 - Britain
- Which Illinois fort served as the center of French military and government authority before the Revolutionary War?
 - Fort Massac
 - Fort de Chartres
 - Fort Kaskaskia
- The capture of Kaskaskia helped Americans gain control of which major region after the Revolution?
 - New England
 - Deep South
 - Northwest Territory
- Which Virginian frontiersman captured Kaskaskia from the British in 1778?
 - Daniel Boone
 - George Rogers Clark
 - Thomas Jefferson

Leadership transitions for Norris Electric, Tri-County Electric cooperatives

Norris Electric Cooperative (NEC) has announced the retirement of General Manager Tamara Phillips and the appointment of Luke Johnson as her successor.

Phillips concludes a 44-year career with NEC, having joined the organization in 1982 as a key punch operator. Over the decades, she advanced through a series of roles, including positions in the billing and accounting departments, before being named office manager in 2003 and general manager in 2016.

During her tenure as general manager, Phillips led several major initiatives that strengthened the cooperative's infrastructure and operations. In her retirement, Phillips plans to travel and spend more time with her husband Richard, their daughters and granddaughter.

Johnson, Phillips' successor, brings 26 years of electric cooperative experience to the role. Johnson's first day at Norris Electric was April 1, 2026. During his career, he has progressed through the ranks of the cooperative system, starting as an apprentice lineman and advancing to foreman, metering technician, operations manager

and general manager of Clay Electric Co-operative. Most recently, he led Tri-County Electric Cooperative as its CEO/general manager.



Bob Hunzinger

A native of Flora, Johnson has been married for 26 years and is the father of six children. As Norris Electric Cooperative marks this leadership transition, the co-op remains focused on its mission of delivering safe, reliable and affordable power to its consumer-members.

With Johnson's departure from Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Bob Hunzinger is currently serving as interim manager while the co-op searches for a new CEO. Hunzinger brings strong leadership and many years of experience to the co-op during this transition. He retired from Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative in 2025 as the co-op's president/CEO after 11 years and more than 40 years in the electric utility industry. 💡



Illinois Seasons

SnapShots Photography Contest

From the cityscape of Chicago to the forests of southern Illinois, the Land of Lincoln is beautiful in every season.

Illinois Country Living is enhancing its **SnapShots** section and is accepting entries for its 2026 Photography Contest, featuring four categories:

Winter • Spring • Summer • Fall

WHAT YOU COULD WIN:

- 📷 Cash prizes
- 📷 Publication in the December 2026 issue of Illinois Country Living
- 📷 Inclusion in the 2027 SnapShots Calendar
- 📷 Statewide exposure for your photography

KEY DETAILS:

- 📷 Photos must be taken in Illinois
- 📷 Open only to Illinois electric co-op members
- 📷 Deadline extended to Sept. 30, 2026
- 📷 Limit: Three submissions per category
- 📷 Photos must be high-res digital files

CONTEST HIGHLIGHTS:

- 📷 One Grand Champion
- 📷 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each category
- 📷 Runners-up will be published in the SnapShots section in 2027



Don't miss your chance to have your work seen across Illinois – and celebrated all year long.

Enter today. Capture the seasons.



For more information or to submit entries, go to icl.coop/snapshots.



Where is it?

The winners of the May hidden object contest were Pam Martin of Western Illinois Electrical Coop. and Janet Reed of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative. Congratulations! Your ICL prizes have been sent.

The milk carton hidden in the June 2026 issue was on page 22 on a T-shirt in the feature story. Winners' names will be drawn, and they will be notified. Visit Illinois Country Living on Facebook after each month's deadline for a closeup of the object's location and winners' names.

It's time for a new hidden object search. To celebrate America's 250th anniversary, be on the lookout for a bald eagle. The symbol is pictured above. It can vary in size and will not be hidden on this page, a lettered page or in an ad.

Entries must include your name, address, name of your electric co-op (nonmembers are also eligible), and the page number and location of the symbol. Visit icl.coop/hiddenobject and fill out the entry form (also found under Contact Us on the website) or mail a postcard or letter to Illinois Country Living, Hidden Objects, 6460 S. 6th St. Frontage Road East, Springfield, IL 62712. We will NOT accept entries via phone call or email.

All entries must be received by the 25th of the publication month. Only one entry is allowed per household every month. If multiple entries per household are submitted, only the first will be considered. Winners' names and the symbol's location will be published in each month's issue of Illinois Country Living. 🗺️



Four Illinois electric co-ops receive more than \$10 million in grid resilience grants

Four Illinois electric cooperatives, as well as two municipal utilities, are set to receive \$12 million in funding through the Illinois Finance Authority's (IFA) Grid Resilience Grants program, which was announced at the end of May.

In its role as the Illinois Climate Bank, the IFA announced transformative investments in six projects across Illinois to reduce the frequency of power outages, speed up restoration times, and lower customers' bills. The second round of IFA's Grid Resilience Grants program will distribute more than \$12 million to directly benefit more than 38,000 Illinois residents across 18 counties.

Including awardee match funds, a total of \$25,593,921 will be invested to upgrade grid infrastructure, rebuild and replace aging power lines, implement technologies to restore power more quickly, and remove overgrown vegetation around high-priority electrical lines.

These grants come from the second round of the IFA's Grid Resilience Grants program, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. The IFA was allocated \$24,549,822 by the U.S. Department of Energy for the first three years of the program. Awardees from the IFA's second round of competitive applications include Adams Electric Cooperative, city of Batavia, city of Peru, Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, JCE Co-op and Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

Local utilities and municipalities play a crucial role in the effective deployment of funds. Awarded projects are tailored to the needs of the communities they serve, increasing the impact of the investment. More information about individual projects can be found on the IFA website. 🗺️

Illinois Finance Authority



Youth Tour makes its mark

A summer tradition returned with the 2026 Youth Tour, an annual event sponsored by the nation's electric and telephone cooperatives. This year's event, held June 15-22, hosted more than 2,000 high school students from 44 states in Washington, D.C. Illinois sent 50 students.

"The goal of [Youth Tour] is to attract, build and retain the next generation of cooperative leaders through sustained engagement," said NRECA Youth Programs Manager Cale McCall.

During Youth Day on June 18, delegates heard from several speakers: NRECA CEO Jim Matheson, NRECA President Mike Partin, Youth Leadership Council spokesperson Brynn Lee Hirata and motivational speaker Mike Schlappi, a wheelchair basketball player who appeared in four consecutive summer Paralympic Games.

This year's Youth Day program included a larger focus on how delegates can leverage the experience later in life, whether they go on to post-secondary education or enter the workforce. Delegates heard from past participants who work on Capitol Hill, a co-op communicator and Youth Leadership Council alumni.

"We wanted to showcase how Youth Tour can be the starting point of a delegate's professional journey," McCall said. "And more importantly, how co-ops support a wide range of careers."

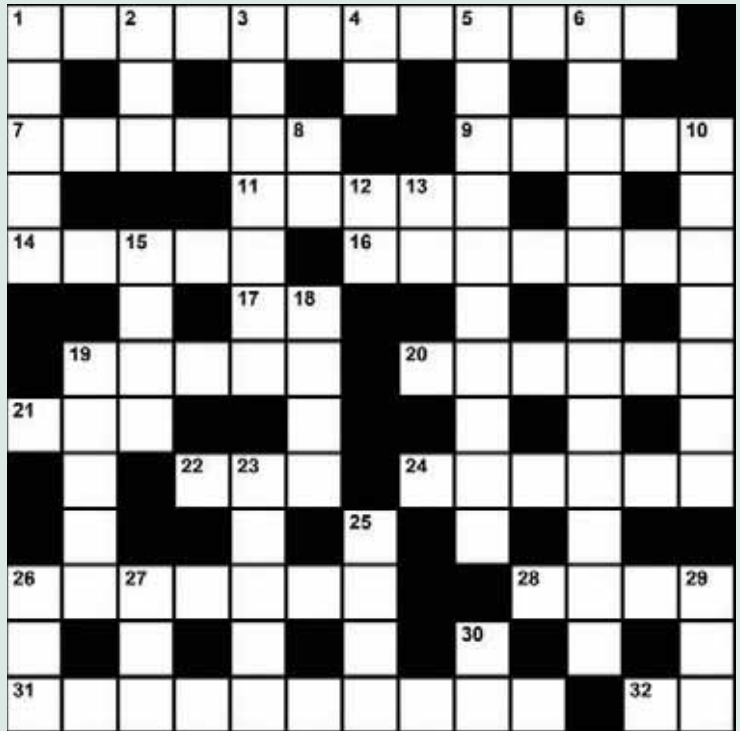
NRECA is continuing to partner with co-ops across the country to provide new resources for engaging younger members and encouraging participation in its suite of youth programs.

At press time, Youth Tour was underway. Additional photos, highlights and coverage will appear in the August 2026 issue of Illinois Country Living. 🗺️

Victoria A. Rocha, NRECA

Across

- 1 The successful ending of the American Revolution
- 6 Founding Fathers legal framework for the USA
- 7 The Illinois America 250 Commission's theme, "We the _____"
- 8 Hesitation sound
- 9 "Yankee Doodle" and "Johnny Has Gone for a Soldier," for example
- 10 Complete quiet
- 11 Financial aid
- 12 Air conditioning, for short
- 13 Sodium symbol
- 14 Work
- 15 The Liberty _____
- 16 Seat of Congress, The _____
- 17 Driver's license, for one
- 18 Resist openly
- 19 Intense passion
- 19 Leaflet
- 20 It was the site of the famous Tea Party
- 21 Everyone
- 21 Shout
- 22 Moral excellence
- 23 Paul Revere, for example
- 24 What the Statue of Liberty represents
- 25 Prefix to potent and present
- 26 Enjoyment
- 26 Per legend, she sewed the first version of the American flag for George Washington, Betsy _____
- 27 Extrasensory perception, abbr.
- 28 Illinois city holding several events commemorating America 250 at their Naper Settlement
- 29 Famous American "uncle" who was originally a popular symbol of the American government as a whole
- 30 Car company based in Detroit
- 30 Very large size (in shirts)



Solution on page 33.

Down

- 1 Drive onward
- 2 Pair
- 3 Traveler on the Mayflower ship
- 4 Negative reply
- 5 Illinois city celebrating July 4th with their "Red White and Boom!" event, 2 words

JULY/AUGUST Datebook

LET'S GO!

July 17-19
105th Elizabeth Community Fair
 ELIZABETH
 An annual event showcasing the village's charm

July 24-25
River Country Quilt Show
 JACKSONVILLE
 Featuring the creativity and craftsmanship of quilts

Aug. 7
Science in the City
 DANVILLE
 Interactive exhibits and experiments for everyone

Aug. 8
Ultimate Brick Show
 MARION
 For LEGO enthusiasts of all ages

For more information, a complete listing of events or to submit an event, visit icl.coop/datebook.



EffingHAM JAM

JULY
17 Downtown Effingham will be bursting with fun and flavor during this evening of barbecue, live music, food trucks and community activities. The annual event features the Hometown Throwdown amateur BBQ competition, kids' activities, raffles and more. Proceeds benefit the Effingham County Chamber Scholarship Program.

July 17, 2026: 5-10 p.m.
 ● Downtown Effingham
effinghamjam.com

Steam Threshing Days

JULY **AUGUST**
31 **1** This immersive event showcases the hard work, skill and innovation of early farming practices and brings agricultural history to life. From start to finish, visitors can watch oats be cut, bound, shocked and threshed using 19th-century methods. These live demonstrations are powered by a steam engine-driven threshing machine.

July 31-Aug. 1, 2026: 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
 ● Illinois Amish Heritage Center, 284 E. Illinois Route 133, between Arcola and Arthur
 Admission: varies
illinoisamish.org



PHOTO COURTESY OF ILLINOIS AMISH HERITAGE CENTER



7th Annual Galena Brew Fest

AUGUST
1 Savor local and regional crafted brews, wines and spirits at a resort overlooking the Mississippi River. Take in the view while listening to music provided by Sam Wooden. While there, enjoy the onsite restaurant, lodging and outdoor activities. Proceeds benefit the Galena ARC. Tickets available in advance on the website for \$35 (includes souvenir glass and 30 sampling tickets) and designated driver tickets for \$5. Tickets can also be purchased at the event for \$40.

Aug. 1, 2026: 1-4 p.m.
 ● Chestnut Mountain Resort, 8700 W. Chestnut Mountain Road, Galena
 Admission: varies
galenaarc.org/galena-brew-fest

U-Pick Sunflowers Farm Day

AUGUST
8 The flowers are blooming, the espresso machine is humming, and the sunflower garden is ready. Join Cedar Oak Farms for a relaxed, open house-style day. Stroll the gardens, build your own bouquet, pick up fresh baked goods from the bakery, and settle into the outdoor garden seating with a latte or cappuccino in hand. Bring your friends. Bring your camera. Leave with flowers and flour on your hands.

Aug. 8, 2026: 9 a.m. to noon
 ● Cedar Oak Farms, 56 N. 2100 E. Road, Paxton
cedar-oak-farms.com



PROTECT WHAT MATTERS MOST

\$5 Gold American Eagles at COST! It's that simple. These Government issued coins are the easiest and safest way to protect your money and your family! A 5 minute call can change everything.

DON'T WAIT!

- Free of Dealer Markup.
- Portfolio Diversifier.
- Inflation Proof.
- Ultimate Safety Net.

**LIMITED TIME OFFER -
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST**



SUPREME COIN AND BULLION

10 Coin maximum, First time buyer program!



\$409
per coin

Vault Code:
LLN726

If you are interested in acquiring Gold, our goal is to make it easy for you! We are looking forward to **EARNING** your business, not just gaining it!

CALL TODAY:

(346) 445-6656

Your future self will thank you



Play it safe

Backyard electrical safety

AS THE WEATHER WARMS and you spend more time outdoors with your family, it's essential to prioritize electrical safety. Hidden hazards can pose serious risks. Here are some critical safety tips to keep loved ones safe in your backyard.

Stay away from power lines

Overhead power lines can be closer than they appear. Teach children never to climb trees near them; and never to fly kites, drones, remote-controlled toys or balloons in areas where lines are present. If you see a downed power line, stay at least 50 feet away and report it to your local utility immediately.

Trampoline safety

If you're considering a trampoline, remember to look up for power lines. Children jumping high into the air could come dangerously close to overhead electric lines, which pose a serious risk of shock or electrocution.

Water safety

Water and electricity are a dangerous combination. Ensure pool lights, filters and outdoor outlets have ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection and inspect them regularly.

GFCIs are designed to quickly shut off electrical power if they detect even a small change in electrical current. If you notice flickering lights or feel a tingling sensation in the water, exit immediately and contact a professional. Faulty wiring can cause electric shock drowning.

Avoid using plug-in devices, like radios, speakers or chargers, near water. Opt for battery-operated, waterproof devices to reduce the risk of shock.

Know what to do in case of an electrical emergency. If someone is shocked, do not enter the water. Turn off the power source and call 911.

If it starts to rain, unplug electrical equipment, such as string lights, radios, speakers or power tools. Teach children not to touch electrical appliances with wet hands.

Outdoor sports

Sports and play areas are a haven for children, but they can also contain hidden electrical hazards. For example, ensure swings and other tall play structures are far from overhead power lines.

If you have outdoor lighting for night games, ensure the fixtures are weatherproof and properly installed. Have a professional check for frayed wires or loose connections.

If kids are playing with a ball and it goes inside a substation fence, teach them never to touch or climb the fence to attempt to retrieve it or any other item. Instead, call your electric cooperative to safely take care of it.

Install a weather app on your phone to inform you of weather alerts. Lightning can occur up to 10 miles away from the heart of a storm, so if you hear thunder, seek shelter inside.

DIY work

If you're planning a backyard upgrade, such as installing landscape lighting, sports lighting or poolside outlets, leave the electrical work to licensed electricians. DIY electrical projects can pose serious safety risks to you and your family if done incorrectly.

If a project involves digging, call 811 to have underground utility lines marked. Digging without knowing the location of buried electrical, gas or water lines can result in dangerous utility strikes. This simple step can prevent accidents, service interruptions and costly repairs.

From poolside play to backyard sports, it's important to be aware of electrical hazards and how to avoid them. For more tips on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Erin Hollinshead is the executive director of Safe Electricity, a program creating a safer, smarter world by providing lifesaving electrical safety education.



RENEWAL
by **ANDERSEN**
FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

Get a **FREE** consultation!
Call **844-742-1019**

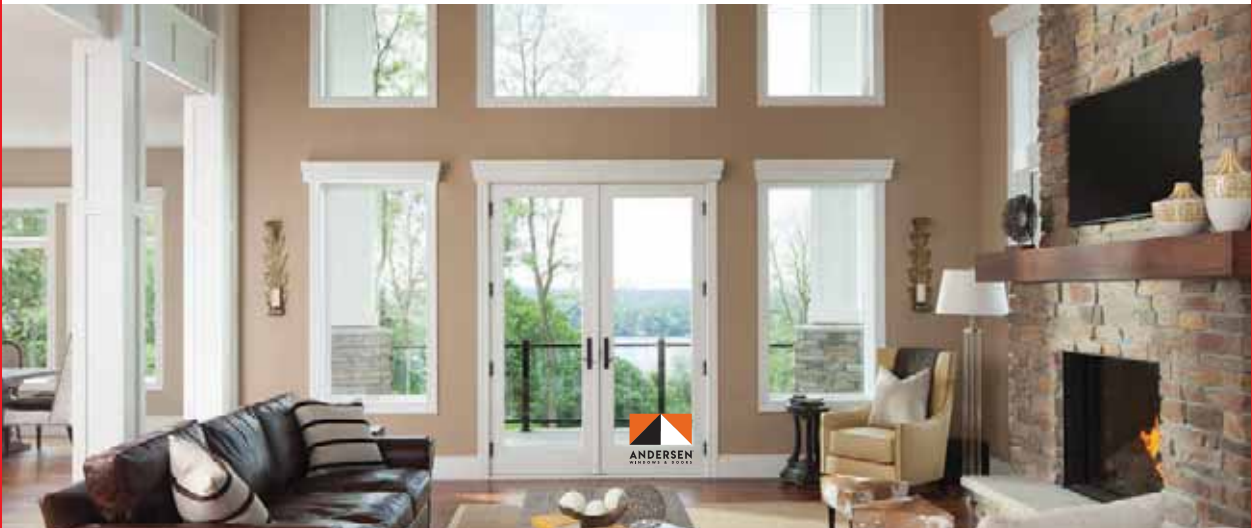
JULY FINANCING EVENT

Order now and pay nothing until January 2028!

NO Money Down
NO Monthly Payments
NO Interest for **18 MONTHS**¹

LIMITED
TIME
OFFER!

MINIMUM PURCHASE OF 6 - INTEREST ACCRUES DURING PROMOTIONAL PERIOD BUT IS WAIVED IF PAID IN FULL WITHIN 18 MONTHS



TESTED, TRUSTED, AND TOTALLY PROVEN.²



Offer Ends **7/31/2026**

Call for your **FREE** consultation.

844-742-1019

FINDYOURWINDOW.COM

More 5-Star
Reviews



Than Other Leading Full-Service
Window Replacement
Companies³

¹DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 7/31/2026. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Get 18 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase six (6) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 7/1/2026 and 7/31/2026. Only valid on initial visit. Subject to credit approval. 18-month Promotional Period: when no payments are due, interest accrues but is waived if balance is paid in full before Promotional Period expires. Any unpaid balance owed after Promotional Period, plus accrued interest, will be paid in installments based on terms disclosed in the financing agreement. Financing is provided by various financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License numbers available at renewalbyandersen.com/license. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. ²Based on testing of 10 double-hung units per ASTM E2068 20 years after installation. ³It is the only warranty among top selling window companies that meets all of the following requirements: easy to understand terms, unrestricted transferability, installation coverage, labor coverage, geographically unrestricted, coverage for exterior color, insect screens and hardware, and no maintenance requirement. Visit renewalbyandersen.com/nationsbest for details. ⁴Review aggregator survey of 5-star reviews among leading national full-service window replacement companies. January 2024 Reputation.com "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2026 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. RBA14201



The power of timing

How you can help during peak demand

YOUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE WORKS hard to ensure safe, reliable power to homes and businesses 24/7. To make sure everyone has the power they need, generation must match consumption and have the capacity to adjust to changing demands for energy.

Peak demand is the period in a given range of time — day, month or year — when electricity use is highest. It's caused by many people using energy-consuming equipment at the same time. It differs based on geography, weather and time of year. For example, demand is typically highest on hot summer afternoons and cold winter mornings. Most utilities also experience daily peaks when people are getting ready in the mornings and returning home in the evenings.

When everyone uses more energy at the same time, it puts more stress on the electric grid and requires more expensive electricity to meet the need. Electricity pricing is based on supply and demand. The price of electricity is higher when the demand is higher.

To lower energy use and strain on the grid during peak times, there are habits we can adopt in our homes.

Let's look at two examples.

Joe and John arrive home from work at 5:30 p.m. They both turn on the oven to make dinner.

While John waits for the oven to preheat, he throws in a load of laundry. He finishes dinner, cleans up and starts the dishwasher. Then, he moves the clothes to the dryer.

Joe finishes dinner, loads the dishwasher and sets it to start at 10 p.m. He puts a load of laundry in the washing machine and later that evening switches it over to the dryer.

Although they use the same appliances and amount of energy, John uses it all at once, running multiple appliances during peak hours, creating higher demand and more strain on the electric grid while using more expensive energy.

To lower your demand, spread electricity use throughout the day and avoid peak times as much as possible. This will reduce the utility's cost of supplying electricity to your home. Another benefit of

shifting your use to midday is integrating renewable energy, such as solar, which produces energy when the sun is shining.

Large appliances — including washers, dryers, ovens, water heaters and air conditioners — have the biggest impact. Using them during off-peak hours or one at a time can help.

Automate as much as possible. Most electric vehicle chargers can be set to charge during scheduled hours with built-in timers or apps. Most modern dishwashers have delay-start features. If you have a pool, set the pool pump to run in the middle of the day.

You can also automate air conditioning. Simple, free adjustments, such as closing your curtains on hot afternoons and evenings, can help, too.

Keep in mind that extreme weather also puts extra stress on the grid. Taking it easy on your energy use during extreme weather events can help prevent outages. Spreading out your energy use helps your utility keep costs down and benefits your local energy grid. 💡



Miranda Boutelle is the director of operations and customer engagement at Efficiency Services Group in Oregon, a cooperatively owned energy efficiency company.

Throw Yourself a Bone

Full tang stainless steel blade with natural bone handle —now **ONLY \$79!**

The very best hunting knives possess a perfect balance of form and function. They're carefully constructed from fine materials, but also have that little something extra to connect the owner with nature.

If you're on the hunt for a knife that combines impeccable craftsmanship with a sense of wonder, the **\$79 Huntsman Blade** is the trophy you're looking for.

The blade is full tang, meaning it doesn't stop at the handle but extends to the length of the grip for the ultimate in strength. The blade is made from 420 surgical steel, famed for its sharpness and its resistance to corrosion.

The handle is made from genuine natural bone, and features decorative wood spacers and a hand-carved motif of two overlapping feathers—a reminder for you to respect and connect with the natural world.

This fusion of substance and style can garner a high price tag out in the marketplace. In fact, we found full tang, stainless steel blades with bone handles in excess of \$2,000. Well, that won't cut it around here. We have mastered the hunt for the best deal, and in turn pass the spoils on to our customers.

But we don't stop there. While supplies last, we'll include a pair of \$99 Stauer pocket binoculars *and* a genuine leather sheath **FREE** when you purchase the **Huntsman Blade**.

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Feel the knife in your hands, wear it on your hip, inspect the impeccable craftsmanship. If you don't feel like we cut you a fair deal, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the item price.

Limited Reserves. A deal like this won't last long. We have only 1120 **Huntsman Blades** for this ad only. Don't let this beauty slip through your fingers. Call today!



BONUS! Call today and you'll also receive this genuine leather sheath!

EXCLUSIVE FREE

Stauer® Pocket Binoculars

-a \$99 value-
with purchase of
Huntsman Blade



What Stauer Clients Are Saying About Our Knives



"This knife is beautiful!"

— J., La Crescent, MN



"The feel of this knife is unbelievable...this is an incredibly fine instrument."

— H., Arvada, CO

Huntsman Blade \$249*

Offer Code Price Only **\$79** + S&P Save **\$170**

1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: **HBK333-03**

You must use the insider offer code to get our special price.

Stauer® 14091 Southcross Drive W., Dept. HBK333-03
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

**Discount is only for customers who use the offer code versus the listed original Stauer.com price.*

California residents please call 1-800-333-2045 regarding Proposition 65 regulations before purchasing this product.

- 12" overall length; 6 1/2" stainless steel full tang blade
- Genuine bone handle with brass hand guard & bolsters
- Includes genuine leather sheath

Stauer... *Afford the Extraordinary.®*



Rating of A+

Staying one step ahead

The art of forecasting electricity load

SUMMER IS IN FULL swing, and many are enjoying the sunshine and warmer weather, but it's also a busy season for Illinois' electric cooperatives.

Electric co-ops use a variety of analytics to predict factors like weather, sunshine, wind, cloud coverage, rain, power generation and even

managing fuel supplies. This leads to reduced operational costs and minimized waste in electricity production, transmission and distribution.

Maintaining stability is a primary concern for electric co-ops, because the grid must constantly balance electricity supply with demand. Load forecasting enables co-ops to anticipate electric peaks and supply disturbances, and helps prevent the grid from failing, which can lead to blackouts.

The integration of renewable energy sources like wind and solar adds complexity to load forecasting. Accurate forecasts help optimize the use of variable renewable energy. Combining load forecasts with renewable generation forecasts helps optimize the grid with tremendous economic benefits.

Short-term forecasts (daily or weekly) give grid operators the necessary data to make informed decisions on what type of power generation to schedule and what electric market purchases or sales need to be made, and to mitigate risks of supply shortages or surpluses so that you can get the most affordable electricity to your home or business.

Additionally, load forecasting informs future planning for infrastructure development, grid expansion, upgrades and interconnections. With the growing demand for electricity, ensuring the grid can handle future increased use is essential and helps maintain reliability over time.

Forecasting electricity demand allows for adaptability to changing power generation sources and demand patterns. It's an important piece of the puzzle for maintaining a reliable, efficient and cost-effective grid. 💡



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLUEBONNET ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Load forecasting enables co-ops to anticipate electric peaks and supply disturbances, and helps prevent the grid from failing.



Jeffrey Groenewold writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.

Irrigation, construction and improvement projects are underway, annual meetings are taking place, and homes and businesses are using more electricity to keep cool.

It takes a lot of electricity to meet all this demand, and electric utilities must ensure there is power available around the clock. So, have you ever wondered how your electric co-op forecasts electricity on the grid?

Electric load forecasting is an important activity that many co-ops perform every day. When you hear things like “peak demand” or “prices are spiking,” it can sound complex and daunting. At the center of these challenges is forecasting.

the future use of electricity, including how much and when it will be used.

All of this information helps co-ops plan and prepare for the next day, week or month to ensure the grid runs smoothly, so we can all enjoy the summer with our family and friends. This practice is called “load forecasting.”

With the changing electric grid — from more renewable energy sources showing up on the system to growing communities that need more electricity — load forecasting is crucial for managing its health.

Accurate forecasting is essential for grid operators to allocate power generation effectively. Proper forecasting aids in scheduling power plants and



250 COLLECTION

Actual sizes: 38.1-40.6 mm Dates will vary

THE SILVER DOLLARS THAT BUILT A NATION

Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary with the 1776 United States Silver Dollar Collection

For 250 years, the United States has been defined by courage, innovation, and an enduring belief in freedom. Now, you can celebrate that extraordinary legacy with the 1776 United States Silver Dollar Collection—featuring five iconic silver dollars that span more than 150 years of American history. Together they trace America's journey from frontier era to the modern age.

The Silver Dollars That Tell America's Story

Morgan Silver Dollar (1878–1921): Struck in 90% silver and 10% copper, the Morgan Dollar emerged in the age of steam and steel, symbolizing a young nation's westward drive and unbreakable optimism. Each circulated through a rapidly changing America, carrying the spirit of progress in every strike. (Extremely Fine condition)



Peace Silver Dollar (1922–1935): Composed of 90% silver and 10% copper, the Peace Dollar was created to commemorate the end of World War I and the dawn of a hopeful new era. Its high-relief design radiates strength and calm—one of the most admired works of U.S. coin artistry. (Extremely Fine condition)



Eisenhower Silver Dollar (1971–1976): Struck in 40% silver, the Eisenhower Dollar honored both a wartime hero and humanity's first steps on the moon. It stands as the last large-size U.S. dollar, bridging the nation's heritage of leadership and exploration. (Brilliant Uncirculated condition)



Silver Eagle Type I (1986–2021): Composed of 99.9% pure silver, the Type I Silver Eagle marked a new chapter in modern coinage. Authorized by the Liberty Coin Act of 1985, it pairs Adolph A. Weinman's timeless Walking Liberty design with John Mercanti's heraldic eagle—a bold expression of freedom for a new era. (Brilliant Uncirculated condition)



Silver Eagle Type II (2021–2026): Struck in 99.9% pure silver, the Type II Silver Eagle continues the legacy with Emily Damstra's dynamic Eagle Landing reverse. Modern in detail yet classic in spirit, it embodies the enduring ideals of liberty and renewal that define America's 250-year story. (Brilliant Uncirculated condition)



This special call-in offer celebrates America's 250th Anniversary with five of her greatest silver dollars.

You'll save both time and money on this 150 Year U.S. Silver Dollar Set, with Free Shipping and a bonus presentation case, plus a new and informative 150 Years U.S. Silver Dollars booklet. Call right now to get yours before they're gone!



Call to Secure Your Set
1776 United States Silver Dollar Collection
 Regular Price ~~\$529~~ - \$509
Save \$20.00 + FREE SHIPPING

Important Reminder: Due to volatile precious metal markets, offer prices shown are subject to change.

250th Anniversary Collection Bonus Pack — A \$50 Value!

- With your order you'll receive a bonus pack celebrating the nation's history:
- Declaration of Independence Print
 - 1934 \$100,000 Gold Certificate Reproduction
 - 1957 \$1 Silver Certificate Note
 - Morgan Silver Dollar booklet



SPECIAL CALL-IN ONLY OFFER
1-800-517-6468

Offer Code YSL226-09
 Please mention this code when you call.

GOVMINT

GOVMINT • 1300 Corporate Center Curve, Dept. YSL226-09, Eagan, MN 55121

GOVMINT® is a brand of Asset Marketing Services, LLC (AMS). AMS is a retail distributor of coin and currency issues and is not affiliated with the U.S. government. The collectible coin market is unregulated, highly speculative and involves risk. Prices, facts, figures and populations deemed accurate as of the date of publication but may change significantly over time. All purchases are expressly conditioned upon your acceptance of our Terms and Conditions (www.amsi-corp.com/terms-conditions); to decline, return your purchase pursuant to our 30 day Return Policy (www.amsi-corp.com/product-return-policy). ©2026 Asset Marketing Services, LLC.



WHERE FREEDOM RINGS

Kaskaskia's semiquincentennial significance

By Colten Bradford

LONG BEFORE BECOMING THE 21st state, and just two years after the Continental Congress officially adopted the Declaration of Independence, the area that would later become Illinois played a pivotal role in the Revolutionary War.

25 consequential Illinois moments in American history

CAPTURE OF KASKASKIA

Helps secure the Old Northwest for the U.S. during the Revolution.

1778

LEWIS AND CLARK WINTER AT CAMP DUBOIS

Launch point for the nation's most famous exploration expedition.

1803-04

ILLINOIS BECOMES 21ST STATE

The Union expands and strengthens the free-state presence in the Midwest.

1818

ILLINOIS CEDED BY VIRGINIA TO THE U.S.

Helps create the Northwest Territory and establish the framework for westward expansion.

1784

ILLINOIS TERRITORY CREATED

Congress separates Illinois from the Indiana Territory, paving the way for statehood.

1809

ILLINOIS AND MICHIGAN CANAL CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

Linking the Great Lakes and Mississippi River systems helps make Chicago the nation's transportation and commercial hub.

1836

As the U.S. celebrates its 250th anniversary — or semiquincentennial — it's time to look back on the role Illinois played in the fight for freedom.

While Kaskaskia has a population of only 21 according to the 2020 U.S. Census, the community is rich with history. For one, it holds the title of Illinois' first state capital, albeit only for a short time — from 1818 to 1819 — before moving to Vandalia. However, it was also the capital of the Illinois Territory from 1809 to Illinois' statehood on Dec. 3, 1818.

Two, it is the only inhabited portion of Illinois located west of the Mississippi River — visitors must enter through Missouri as most of the original town was swallowed by the Mighty Mississippi and cut off from the rest of Illinois.

But most significantly, on July 4, 1778, Kaskaskia was the location of a victory that helped change the course of the Revolutionary War.



The village of Kaskaskia, which today is powered by Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, was originally formed in 1703 by French Jesuit missionaries. It was named after the Kaskaskia, a historical Indigenous tribe in the Illiniwek Confederation who inhabited the area.

The settlement later grew to be the center of French life in the Illinois Country and became a thriving community, thanks to fertile soils for agriculture and Mississippi River trade routes for fur traders.

In 1765, the area was occupied by the British. Two years to the day after the U.S. declared independence from Great Britain, George Rogers Clark and his band of militiamen overtook the British-controlled village without firing a shot.

Many historians consider Clark's Illinois campaign as one of the most consequential but least-known of the Revolutionary War. The victory was strategically important, because it gave the Americans control of a vast region stretching

Above: The Mississippi River overlook at Fort Kaskaskia State Historic Site displays sweeping views of the river and Kaskaskia Island.

Left: The Liberty Bell of the West is on display on Kaskaskia Island.

CHICAGO INCORPORATED AS A CITY

Begins the rise of America's premier inland city and rail center.

1837

LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATES

Elevates Abraham Lincoln to national prominence and frames the slavery debate.

1858

GREAT CHICAGO FIRE

Transforms urban planning, fire codes and skyscraper development nationwide.

1871

WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION

Introduces millions to new technologies and shapes American architecture and city planning.

1893

1846

MORMON EXODUS FROM NAUVOO

Influences western settlement and the development of Utah.

1860

ABRAHAM LINCOLN ELECTED PRESIDENT

Directly shapes the Civil War and preservation of the Union.

1886

HAYMARKET AFFAIR

Influences labor rights and inspires International Workers' Day worldwide.



The Liberty Bell of the West once rang at Kaskaskia's Church of the Immaculate Conception. Now it is on display near the Immaculate Conception Chapel.

across the western frontier, weakened British influence and strengthened American claims to the Northwest Territory during post-war negotiations.

According to the National Endowment for the Humanities,

the bell at Kaskaskia's Church of the Immaculate Conception, founded in 1675, rang in celebration following the capture. That bell later came to be known as the Liberty Bell of the West and a rare surviving artifact west of the Appalachians directly related to the Revolutionary War. Over time, it developed a crack and, as a result, can no longer be rung.

The bell, which was cast in La Rochelle, France, in 1741 and given to the Catholic Church of Illinois by France's King Louis XV, remains on display today near Immaculate Conception Chapel along 1st Street on Kaskaskia Island.

The Kaskaskia Bell State Memorial is a small brick building open daily, sunrise to sunset. Tours are self-guided. While visitors cannot step into the building, the bell can be viewed from a gated entrance. With a press of a button, the door opens and a 1-minute audio recording can be heard.

On July 4, an annual Independence Day program held there celebrates the victory.

The current Kaskaskia is located about 3 miles away from the original settlement. Though the Mississippi River had once helped make Kaskaskia prosperous, it eventually became the town's undoing. Much of the settlement was swept away by the Mississippi River during a flood in April 1881.

The flood caused the Mississippi to dramatically change course. Instead of flowing west of Kaskaskia, the river shifted eastward into the channel of the Kaskaskia River. That shift placed the Mississippi directly in the path of the town. By 1909, the old village of Kaskaskia had all but disappeared.

Thankfully, not all of old Kaskaskia is gone. Perched high above the Mississippi River, on the eastern side, sits the Fort Kaskaskia State Historic Site, which consists

SPRINGFIELD RACE RIOT

An outbreak of racial violence becomes a catalyst for the founding of the NAACP the following year.



EAST ST. LOUIS RACE RIOTS

One of the deadliest racial massacres in U.S. history, it exposes the nation's racial tensions and helps galvanize early civil rights activism.



U.S. ROUTE 66 BEGINS IN CHICAGO

The "Mother Road" connects the Midwest to the Pacific Coast, transforming American travel, tourism and pop culture.



CENTURY OF PROGRESS WORLD'S FAIR

Held in Chicago, it showcases innovation during the Great Depression.



FIRST CONTROLLED NUCLEAR CHAIN REACTION ACHIEVED

At the University of Chicago, scientists working on the Manhattan Project usher in the atomic age and transform warfare, energy production and scientific research.



O'HARE OPENS TO COMMERCIAL PASSENGER SERVICE

Chicago's international airport begins its rise to one of the world's busiest aviation hubs, helping shape modern air travel.



of the remains of Fort Kaskaskia, Garrison Hill Cemetery and, ironically, a Mississippi River overlook, which provides a view of the river and Kaskaskia Island.

The earthen remains of Fort Kaskaskia are still visible. Raised embankments form a rough square with defensive bastions at each corner. According to the Historic Preservation Division of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the small French fort was built around 1759 to help protect the nearby village.

Modest in size, Fort Kaskaskia played a role in the region's frontier history. Historical accounts indicate the fort contained only a three-room barracks and a kitchen, and it may never have been fully completed. French and U.S. troops occupied the site periodically until 1807, and residents reportedly sought refuge there during periods of unrest associated with the War of 1812.

Adjacent to the fort's remains is Garrison Hill Cemetery, established by the Illinois General Assembly in 1891 to protect the graves of early Kaskaskia settlers whose burial sites were threatened by the Mississippi River. A prominent monument erected in 1892 honors those pioneers and serves as a reminder of the once-thriving community that stood below.

Archaeologists continue to study the original town site, hoping to uncover new details about one of Illinois' earliest settlements.

Also located within the boundaries of Fort Kaskaskia State Historic Site is the Pierre Menard Home. Menard was Illinois' first lieutenant governor from 1818 to 1822, and his 1815 home is a well-preserved example of French Creole-style architecture. The grounds are open daily, sunrise to sunset, and tours are available Wednesdays through Sundays mid-May through mid-November.

Today, visitors are free to roam the historic area to celebrate Kaskaskia on both sides of the Mississippi River. On Kaskaskia Island, they will find a peaceful landscape of farmland and a quiet community. And, although only a small population remains today, Kaskaskia's influence far exceeds its size.

When the Treaty of Paris ended the Revolutionary War in 1783, American negotiators secured the Northwest Territory. That land would eventually become Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin and part of Minnesota. In that sense, the events at Kaskaskia helped determine not just Illinois' future, but also the map of the United States as seen today.

In that respect, even though the Liberty Bell of the West no longer rings, it still acts as a symbol of independence and freedom that reverberates 250 years later. 💡

FIRST TELEVISED PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Held in Chicago, the Kennedy-Nixon debate transforms American political campaigns by demonstrating the power of television.

1960

1973

1985

1993

2008

2021

FIRST FARM AID CONCERT

The Champaign event draws national attention to the farm crisis and rural America.

BARACK OBAMA WINS PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Illinois' U.S. senator makes history as nation's first Black president.

COMPLETION OF SEARS TOWER

Now known as the Willis Tower, the former tallest building in the world symbolizes advances in skyscraper engineering worldwide.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE MOSAIC WEB BROWSER

The University of Illinois becomes home to the first widely popular graphical web browser, which helps transform the internet from a research tool into mainstream technology.

SAFE-T ACT PASSES

Illinois is the first state to eliminate cash bail and becomes a national focal point in debates over criminal justice reform, pretrial detention and public safety.

A TALE OF TWO CONCORDS

Revolutionary reunion unites cousins

By Lisa Cherry

ONE DAY, A WEARY traveler from Massachusetts on an unusual quest found himself in the heart of Adams Electric Cooperative territory. Hungry and tired, he made a last-minute call to the nearby Red Bird Inn in Clayton. The proprietor answered, explaining that though there were no rooms available, he was welcome to book the cabin on the property.

Rob Morrison, a history teacher and resident of Concord, Mass., was on a journey to visit every Concord in the United States. His destination this time was Concord Township, adjacent to Clayton.

Upon arriving for the night, he met innkeeper Becky Barlow, who sits on the Adams Electric Cooperative board of directors and is the vice chair of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives board.

"I left you some homemade chocolate chip cookies and four books that have some pictures and the history of Adams County. I'm sure you'll find some information about Concord Township," she told him, which he later shared on his blog, concordrob.com.

Becky Barlow marches in the 250th anniversary parade in Concord, Mass. Far right: Rob Morrison leads the "Concord cousins" in the parade.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MAIA KENNEDY PHOTOGRAPHY

Some time after his departure, Barlow received a letter from Morrison in the mail.

"It was about this big goings-on to celebrate 'the shot heard 'round the world,'" she says. "He says, 'Dear Becky, I hope I can reciprocate your hospitality and welcome you to Historic Concord, the inspiration of the name of your township. This should be a memorable event, and I hope you can make it, Rob.' I looked at [Jim] and said, 'We never do anything crazy like this. We need to go.'"

The couple embarked on the 18-hour drive with their dog, Bing, on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, and arrived in Concord, Mass., the following day. The next few days were spent sightseeing and congregating with their hosts and the rest of the "Concord cousins" — an affectionate nickname someone came up with for the people Morrison had met on his journey and invited to the 250th anniversary of the start of the American Revolution.

Finally came the day of the main event — Saturday, April 19, 2025. "The big day!" Barlow recorded in her trip diary, along with the following:

"Walked to 'North Bridge' and witnessed firing of the musket for opening ceremonies and the firing of cannons. ... The parade was huge!

"There were 13 'cousins' who walked! ... Ten states were represented: New York, Vermont, California, Minnesota, Maine, Ohio, Georgia, New Hampshire, West Virginia and Illinois."

Afterwards, the couple, along with Bing, said their goodbyes and headed home later that same day.

"This parade was three-and-a-half miles long, there was no candy being thrown, and the people were five or six deep the whole route," Barlow later describes. "It just gives me goosebumps to talk about it."

According to Morrison, his journey and the cousins all came about because of his own curiosity. "I was teaching history here in Concord, Mass.," he explains. "And it's the site of the Battle of Lexington and Concord — the first battle of the American Revolution. ... As I started looking more and more at [local] Concord history, I kept running into these other ConCORDs — Concord, Calif., and Concord, N.C., Concord, N.H., and it just got me curious as to what these other places were like."

Morrison, also a guide for the Minute Man National Park in Concord, Mass., began researching and compiling a list of all the ConCORDs in the U.S. When he and his wife drove their daughter's car to her in Arizona, they began visiting the other ConCORDs.

"Instead of doing the four-day direct route out to Arizona, we took a little bit of a meander," he laughs. "We had lunch in Concord, N.Y., and then dinner in Concord, Pa., and the next day we went to Concord, Va., then Concord, Tenn., Concord, Ala., Concord, La., [and a] couple of ConCORDs in Texas."

Every place he went, he photographed and documented. Twelve years passed. "[It was] kind of fits



and starts, as I was a teacher,” Morrison explains. “Summertime ... a long vacation, long weekend ... I started knocking them all off.”

There are more than one might think — 97, in fact. Four of them are in Illinois. East Texas ranks the highest with 14 Concords. There’s only one in California, though it’s the largest, and then there’s Concord, Idaho, with a population of two. He says some are nothing more than graveyards at this point.


“I try to find a story that can be illustrative of what life is like in that Concord, so I end up talking to a lot of strangers and going up to people on the street or somebody mowing their lawn and saying, ‘Excuse me, I’m Rob from Concord, Mass. I’m doing this strange little project and going to all the Concords in the country.’ They always [have] the same reaction — they look at me, and then they kind of tilt their head a little bit, [there’s] silence, and then they go, ‘Well, that’s cool,’” he laughs. “It’s been a universally positive experience meeting strangers, and

I ask everybody I meet what the best part of living in their Concord is ... [and] how it’s changed since they first moved there.”

When plans for the 250th anniversary of the battle were underway, Morrison thought it would be fun to invite the people he’d met to come for the celebration. “I was on the invitations committee, and I pitched this idea to the town, and again people kind of turned their heads sideways,” he laughs. It was then that the “Concord cousins” were born.

Morrison says the hardest part of the quest was staying focused. “I’d have to drive past all these things, and tell myself, ‘No, no, I’m just going to Concord. I’m not going to Mount Rushmore [or the] Badlands. I’ve got to get to Concord, S.D.’” he laughs, citing an example.

And, of his visit to Concord Township in Illinois and Barlow’s Red Bird Inn, Morrison says, “I got all the history of the township, I certainly got great hospitality and a beautiful little stay at her bed and breakfast ... she’s a lovely woman.”



The “firing of the musket” in Concord, Mass., on Old North Bridge commemorating the 250th anniversary of the “shot heard round the world.”

TRI-STATE TRAVEL

Celebrating 85 Years of Worry-Free Travel



2026 MULTI-DAY TOURS

Aug 4-7 PUT-IN-BAY, OHIO.....	\$1,825.00
Aug 11-16 KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS RAILROADS.....	\$2,399.00
Sept 9-15 MICHIGAN'S HIDDEN GEMS (FT. INTERNATIONAL FIREWORKS CHAMPIONSHIP).....	\$2,899.00
Sept 21-25 TASTE OF WISCONSIN.....	\$1,999.00
Sept 27-Oct 6 NEW ENGLAND FALL FOLIAGE.....	\$3,269.00
Oct 7-14 NOVA SCOTIA'S ENCHANTED ISLANDS.....	\$4,849.00
Oct 10-17 100th ANNIVERSARY OF ROUTE 66.....	\$2,699.00
Oct 18-23 SCENIC SMOKY MOUNTAIN GETAWAY.....	\$1,995.00
Nov 17-20 OZARK MOUNTAIN MUSICAL CHRISTMAS.....	\$1,569.00

Exclusive 2026 Single-Day Tours

Aug 19 IOWA STATE FAIR (Davenport, IA & Moline, IL).....	\$115.00
Sept 25 53RD ANNUAL WARRENS CRANBERRY FESTIVAL.....	\$119.00
Oct 7 LACROSSE FALL FOLIAGE TOUR.....	\$180.00
Oct 27 LEGACY DINNER THEATER: MONSTER MASH SPOOKTACULAR.....	\$199.00
Dec 2 LEGACY DINNER THEATER: CHRISTMAS IN THE DELLS.....	\$199.00

Join A Tour

Since 1940, Tri-State Travel has been combining comfort and authenticity to bring you memorable travel experiences to the world's most desired destinations. The Tri-State Travel collection has expanded to include guaranteed departure trips, multi-day tours as well as our popular one-day trips. Wherever you want to go, we take you there - worry free. Tri-State Travel is proud to offer a large fleet of deluxe and luxury motorcoaches. No matter the size of your group or your destination, we can provide you with a comfortable, clean, modern experience every time.



HEADQUARTERS:

4349 Industrial Park Dr. Galena, IL 61036

800.779.4869 | info@tristatetravel.com | www.tristatetravel.com



A sweet stop

Busy highway leads travelers to Jenni's Ice Cream and Grill

By Kayla Adkins

ALONG A BUSY STRETCH of highway in the quiet Mississippi River village of Lomax, population 404, is a seasonal ice cream stand that has become more than just a place to grab a cone. For the past 14 years, Jenni's Ice Cream and Grill has been a gathering place — a repeat stop for travelers, bicyclists and locals since it opened in 2012.

"I had just had my daughter, and I kept seeing this building sit empty," says owner Jenni Ewing, so she decided to open her own ice cream shop. "I worked at Dairy Queen all through high school and college, and I absolutely loved it."

She says the owners of that Dairy Queen, located in Monmouth, were huge supporters of her dream from the beginning. "They were actually my very first customers when we opened," Ewing says with a smile.

The restaurant, open seasonally from April through early October, sits along one of the area's busiest roads. A traffic study once counted nearly 30,000 vehicles passing by each day — a number so surprising officials ran the study twice to confirm it.

"It's a direct route to Burlington and Fort Madison," Ewing explains. "And when the bridge closes, everybody must come through here. Plus, it's on a national bicycle route [the Mississippi River Trail]."

That steady stream of travelers has turned the little ice cream stand into an unexpected destination. Inside, visitors from around the world have marked pins on a giant map on the wall.

Guests have come from England, Poland, Singapore, Zimbabwe, New Zealand and beyond. "We always ask people, 'How did you end up in Lomax?'" Ewing says. "Everybody has a story."

The restaurant's menu may seem simple at first glance — burgers, tenderloins, fries, chicken strips, pulled pork and plenty of ice cream — but her focus on quality foods makes it anything but simple. The signature Juicy Lucy cheeseburger features two beef patties wrapped around a molten center of cheese.



Left to right: Jenni's Ice Cream and Grill drive-thru; the signature Juicy Lucy burger; restaurant owner Jenni Ewing; the outdoor seating area; cherry sundae; chicken strips with fries.

"Our fries don't even need ketchup, in my opinion," she laughs. "I mean, they're that good. The pulled pork is cooked for 14 hours. We just [keep] trying to improve every single year."

That attention to detail carries throughout the entire menu. Ewing recalls being frustrated by low-quality frozen food at other restaurants, so she spent years testing products and attending food shows to find the best options available.

"Our ice cream is what really makes us different," she says. "We use Anderson Erickson Dairy out of Des Moines, Iowa. It costs more, but it's so much better. We've had no complaints. They do a great product for us."

The ice cream is soft serve, including chocolate, vanilla and swirl, with a variety of topping options for shakes and sundaes. The Hurricane is a blended ice cream dessert — similar to a Dairy Queen Blizzard — where soft-serve ice cream is mixed with candy, cookies or other toppings until thick and creamy.

While most of the menu items are always available, Jenni's does offer limited weekly ice cream and smoothie flavors that are shared on Facebook.

Inside, photographs of local kids and longtime customers cover the walls. Ewing lights up when talking about the young employees who have worked there over the years.

"They're not just employees to me — they're my kids," she says.

Her desire is to make the restaurant a welcoming place for everyone. "I want kids to have somewhere they can go," Ewing says. "Somewhere safe. Somewhere they'll remember."

That atmosphere may be the secret ingredient behind her success. Families and travelers gather beneath the outdoor canopy on summer evenings, and regular customers make weekly visits part of their routines.

Ewing says a pair of sisters meet there every Sunday, spending hours catching up over lunch and ice cream. The restaurant sits halfway between their homes and provides the ideal spot for them to hang out.

Ironically, despite owning an ice cream shop, she can't partake of it herself. "But ice cream makes people happy," Ewing says with a grin. "That's why I wanted to sell it." 🍦

LET'S EAT!

Jenni's Ice Cream and Grill

394 Carman Road, Lomax

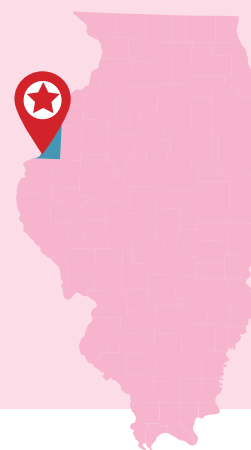
217-449-3700

Facebook.com/jennisicecreamgrill6112

HOURS

Tues-Sun: 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Open April through October



Brown sugar bliss

"I MAY NEVER BUY brown sugar again." That was my initial reaction after reading about how easy it is to make at home. A couple years and many bags of store-bought brown sugar later, I had the same thought after actually making it. As the molasses and sugar mixed together, its rich fragrance filled the kitchen, and I was ready to test some recipes that highlight the flavor and sweetness of brown sugar. Whether you choose to make it yourself or simply buy it from the store (absolutely nothing wrong with that), you're ready to take on any recipe with brown sugar. 💡

WE NEED RECIPES!

New and old favorites

Side dishes

Sugar-free recipes

Please email recipe submissions or questions to finestcooking@icl.coop or mail them to Finest Cooking c/o Illinois Country Living, 6460 S. 6th St. Frontage Road East, Springfield, IL 62712. Please include your name, address, phone number (for questions), and the name of your electric cooperative. Additional recipes can be found on our website at finestcooking.com.



Recipes are prepared, tasted and photographed by **Colten Bradford**, Illinois Country Living editor.



Oven-Made Caramel Corn

Submitted by Janet Rudolphi, Clinton County Electric Cooperative

Servings: 20

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 cup butter | 1 teaspoon salt |
| 2 cups light brown sugar | 1/2 teaspoon baking soda |
| 1/2 cup light corn syrup | 5 quarts popped popcorn |

Preheat oven to 250 F. Combine butter, brown sugar, corn syrup and salt in a saucepan over medium heat. Boil to a firm ball stage (248 F). Remove from heat and add baking soda. Mix with popcorn. Place popcorn on sheet pans and bake for 45 minutes, stirring every 15 minutes. Cool.

Homemade Brown Sugar

Yields: 1 cup

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 cup granulated sugar | 1 tablespoon molasses |
|------------------------|-----------------------|

In a mixing bowl, combine sugar and molasses with an electric mixer. Break up any lumps. Continue to mix until no lumps remain and it is uniform in color. Store in an airtight container.

Note: Adjust ratio based on how much brown sugar is needed. For dark brown sugar, use 2 tablespoons of molasses for every 1 cup of sugar.

Brown Sugar Cookie Bars

Submitted by Terry Fleming, Norris Electric Cooperative

Servings: 20-24

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1/2 pound margarine | Icing: |
| 1 cup light brown sugar, packed | 1-1/2 cups powdered sugar |
| 1 egg yolk, slightly beaten | 3 tablespoons margarine, softened |
| 2 cups flour | 1 teaspoon vanilla extract |
| 1/2 teaspoon baking soda | 1-2 tablespoons milk |
| 1 teaspoon vanilla extract | |

Preheat oven to 350 F. Melt margarine over low heat in a saucepan. Remove from heat. Mix melted margarine and brown sugar well. Mix in other ingredients in order given, stirring after each ingredient. Pat the dough evenly onto an ungreased 9x13-inch cookie sheet. The dough will be stiff. Bake for 11-12 minutes, or until done. Do not overbake. Cool slightly. While baking, mix all icing ingredients until smooth and spread with spatula over warm cookies. Cut into small squares and serve.

Jalapeno Poppers

Submitted by Barbara Bretz, Clinton County Electric Cooperative

Yields: 12

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 12 jalapeno peppers | 12 strips bacon |
| 1 8-ounce box cream cheese | 1 cup brown sugar |

Preheat oven to 350 F. Make slits in jalapeno peppers and scoop out seeds and ribs. Cut the cream cheese into 12 planks and stuff them into the peppers. Wrap a piece of bacon around the pepper and secure it with a toothpick. Roll the pepper in brown sugar to cover as much of the outside surface as you are able. Place on a rack on a baking sheet covered with aluminum foil. Bake for 30 minutes, or until the bacon is cooked.

Bacon Wrapped Smokies

Submitted by Carole Ann Elledge, Illinois Electric Cooperative

Servings: 12-16

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 pound bacon, cut into thirds | 1 stick butter |
| 1 pound cocktail wieners | 2 cups brown sugar, divided |

Preheat oven to 375 F. Wrap bacon around smokies. Place in a greased 9x13-inch pan seam side down so they won't come undone. In a saucepan over medium heat, melt butter and dissolve 1 cup brown sugar in the butter. Pour over smokies and sprinkle remaining cup of brown sugar on top. Bake 15-20 minutes. Turn oven up to 400 F and bake for an additional 10-15 minutes, or until bacon is done and crispy. Remove from oven and place toothpicks in each for easy serving.

Brown Sugar Icing

Submitted by Mrs. Lucas Wickey, Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association

Yields: about 2 cups

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1/2 cup butter | 1/4 cup milk |
| 1 cup light brown sugar | 2-3 cups powdered sugar |

Boil butter and brown sugar in a saucepan over medium heat for 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Add milk and bring to a boil again. Remove from heat and cool. Add powdered sugar until desired consistency – less for a thinner consistency, more for thicker. Use on your favorite chocolate cake or as desired. **Editor's note:** Double the recipe if you are making a layered cake.



Rooted in flavor

Perennial herbs that earn their keep

ADDING NEW PLANTS TO your garden each year can take a toll, both on your back and your budget. Perennial herbs offer a practical and rewarding alternative. These versatile plants provide lasting beauty in the landscape while serving a delicious purpose in the kitchen, saving both time and money over the long term.

Perennial herbs are easily incorporated into existing flower beds and landscapes, offering a rich blend of fragrance, texture and color. Unlike annuals, they return year after year after winter dieback, making them a reliable and low-maintenance addition. Some grow as small woody shrubs, while others remain herbaceous. Grown throughout Illinois, many hardy perennial herbs thrive with minimal care.

Chives



Chives form tidy, 12-inch clumps of grass-like foliage. Their purple-pink blooms are both ornamental and edible. Leaves can be harvested throughout the growing season, though young growth offers the most delicate flavor.

Lemon balm



Lemon balm has heart-shaped leaves with a bright lemon scent, and grows to about 18 inches tall.

To keep it from spreading too freely, remove spent flower stalks before they set seed.

Oregano



Oregano reaches up to two feet tall, with branching stems and small, aromatic leaves. In summer, it produces clusters of tiny pink flowers that attract pollinators.

Sage



Sage is a small, woody shrub with unique gray-green foliage. It prefers well-drained soil, as excess moisture can lead to root rot.

Thyme



Thyme forms a low, spreading mound 6 to 12 inches tall. Its tiny, fragrant leaves serve as a backdrop for light pink tubular blooms in early summer.

Additional perennial herbs worth considering include lovage, lavender, salad burnet, French tarragon, winter savory and mint. When growing mint, however, use caution. It can quickly spread and overtake garden beds. Planting it in a container is the best way to keep it under control.

Some popular herbs are classified as “tender perennials,” meaning they are not winter hardy in colder climates. This group includes rosemary, lemon verbena, lemongrass and scented geraniums. In Illinois, these plants can be grown year-round by moving them indoors before the first frost.

To encourage vigorous growth and the best flavor, replicate the native conditions of many herbs which originate in the Mediterranean region. These plants prefer warm temperatures, well-drained soil and relatively dry conditions, making them naturally drought-tolerant once established. They also tend to have few pest or disease issues, adding to their low-maintenance appeal.

While some herbs tolerate partial shade, most perform best and develop their strongest flavor when they receive six to eight hours of direct sunlight each day.

With their blend of resilience, beauty and culinary value, perennial herbs are a smart investment for any garden, offering rewards that return season after season. 💡



Lovage



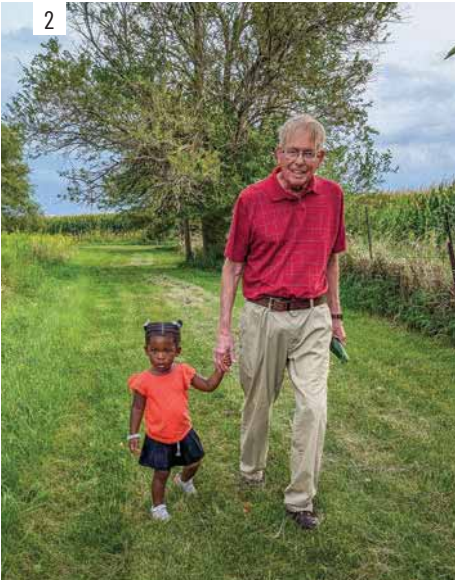
Brittnay Haag is a Horticulture Educator for the University of Illinois Extension serving Livingston, McLean and Woodford counties. Her work focuses on youth horticulture education through school gardens and Jr. Master Gardener programs.

Summer fun

1. **LORI NICHOLS**
Menard Electric Cooperative
2. **LINDA SIMONSON**
Corn Belt Energy Corporation
3. **EMILY R. ELDER**
Norris Electric Cooperative
4. **EMILY FLAMM**
Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative
5. **SHEETAL GODI**
Corn Belt Energy Corporation
6. **DENISE TERVEN**
SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative



1



2



3



5



4



6

ENTER THE 2026 PHOTO CONTEST



SUBMIT A PHOTO

Online: icl.coop/snapshots

Rules: Include high-quality digital files. When submitting, include details about the photo, artist's name and the co-op name. Limit of three submissions per category. Categories include the four seasons: spring, summer, fall and winter. All photos must be taken in Illinois.

Deadlines: Submissions are due Sept. 30, 2026.

Terms of use: By submitting any photos to Snapshots, whether online or by email, you agree to grant Illinois Country Living and icl.coop royalty-free, perpetual and nonexclusive rights to use, display, edit, publish or archive it in whole or in part online or in print. You further warrant that you have all legal, moral and other rights that may be necessary to grant the license specified above.

Visit icl.coop/snapshots for full terms and conditions.

TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE



Geothermal is like finding magic in your backyard.

Turn your wishes of lower energy costs into reality with a residential geothermal unit from WaterFurnace. Our systems tap into free, renewable energy stored in the ground to deliver reliable, consistent comfort and real savings on heating, cooling, and hot water. They're twice as efficient as traditional HVAC systems, last 40% longer, and cut energy bills by as much as 70%.

Stop wishing and start saving with geothermal from WaterFurnace. Visit waterfurnace.com to learn how to turn "Too Good To Be True" into "True."



YOUR LOCAL WATERFURNACE DEALERS

Bloomington/Normal
Design Air
(217) 423-4713

Hinrichsen Htg & A/C
(309) 965-2604

Popejoy Plmb, Htg,
Elct & Geo
(815) 692-4471

**Carbondale/Marion/
Harrisburg**
D&C Htg & Clg
(618) 997-6577

Parker Htg & Clg
(618) 357-8951

Champaign/Urbana
Hoveln Htg & Clg
(217) 643-2125

Damiansville
Toennies Service Co.
(618) 248-5130

Decatur
Design Air
(217) 423-4713

Fairbury
Popejoy Plmb, Htg,
Elct & Geo
(815) 692-4471

Gifford
Duden & Silver
(217) 568-7954

Goodfield
Hinrichsen Htg & A/C
(309) 965-2604

Kanakakee/Will/Iroquois
L&H Services
(815) 242-2576

Macomb
Arnold Bros. Htg & Clg
(309) 833-2852

Paxton/Gibson City
Houston Plmb,
Htg & A/C
(217) 379-2329

Springfield/Virden
Snell Pbg & Htg
(217) 965-3911

Taylorville
Yard Htg & Clg
(217) 824-4737



Energy Efficiency That Works as Hard as You Do.



As a member of your local electric co-op, you know the value of smart energy choices. A Heat Pump Water Heater uses far less energy than a traditional water heater — meaning dependable hot water with lower monthly bills. Efficient for your home. Good for your wallet. Better for your community.

AVAILABLE AT
MENARDS®

Richmond®
The Water Heater Experts™