

Memorial Hospital Foundation — Generations in Bloom Campaign

Each year Memorial Hospital Foundation takes on a project that enhances the health and wellness of the communities we serve. Over the next two years, the Foundation will continue raising funds to build a new Willow Grove Childcare and Learning Center on the Hancock Village Campus. The Generations in Bloom Campaign is a \$2 million initiative designed to expand access to high-quality childcare for families throughout our region, including those who come here to work. This new facility will also create opportunities for afterschool care and summer programming, supporting children and families at every stage.

The new Willow Grove Childcare and Learning Center will continue to serve children ages 6 weeks to 5 years in a nurturing, educational environment led by experienced early childhood professionals. What sets this project apart is its intentional design, which will create opportunities for intergenerational engagement between young children and senior residents. Through shared experiences, daily interactions and structured programming, the center will foster communication skills and strengthen connections in children while also providing seniors with purpose and enhancing overall quality of life. Research and lived experience continue to demonstrate that both generations benefit profoundly from these interactions, making this project a meaningful investment in long-term community wellness.

The current facility limits the ability to expand intergenerational programming. The new center will provide:

- Purpose-built classrooms and shared activity spaces
- Safe, welcoming and accessible environments for all ages **3912-18**
- Expanded programming for both children and seniors
- Increased capacity to meet the growing demand for high-quality childcare



Importantly, this new facility will significantly increase the organization's ability to meet the growing childcare needs in our region, providing more families with access to high-quality, reliable care. This thoughtfully designed space will allow the organization to fully realize its vision of integrated, relationship-centered care.

The Generations in Bloom campaign invites community members, businesses and partners to be part of something lasting — whether by becoming a Rooted in Growth Partner or establishing a named legacy within the new facility.

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

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday

BUSINESS OFFICE

217-357-3125

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

800-576-3125

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **Mark Burling** —
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- **Dustin Walker** —
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- **Todd Grotts** — General Manager
- **Ryan Biery** — Manager
of Operations
- **Wendi Whitaker** — Finance and
Accounting Manager

MAP LOCATION CONTEST

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

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"This is an opportunity to create a legacy where generations grow together," said Greta Wetzel, Memorial Hospital Foundation Executive Director. "Your support helps cultivate a space where compassion is nurtured, dignity is honored, and meaningful connections take root." **282-22**

As part of this campaign, we are excited to bring back a beloved holiday tradition with a new twist — Evergreens for Willow. Evergreens for Willow will be held on Friday, Nov. 20, 2026, at Smokin' Gun Hunting Lodge in Hamilton, Ill. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m., with a festive holiday buffet beginning at 6 p.m. Guests will enjoy an evening of delicious food, silent, live and online auctions, home-made baked goods and live entertainment, all while supporting the mission of Willow. We look forward to bringing our community together for an

evening of holiday cheer and generosity in support of the individuals and families we serve. For more information, scan the QR Code or visit the Memorial Hospital Foundation Facebook page.

Scan for more information
on Evergreens for Willow



To learn more about the campaign, make a gift, or explore naming opportunities, visit MHTLC.ORG or contact the Memorial Hospital Foundation team at: gwetzel@mhtlc.org, kforeman@mhtlc.org, or oclark@mhtlc.org.

Scan to donate to
Generations in Bloom



Welcome new members

July
2026

ADD LLP
Burch, Jessica
Header, Gregory A
Kusmierz, Karen A

Link, Celsey M
Orth, Fische M
Simmons, Wesley T
Village of Stronghurst



Member Appreciation Day is October 26th

To celebrate Cooperative Month in October, WIEC will have Member Appreciation Day on the 26th from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Because we are owned by the members we serve, electric cooperatives have strong commitments to the local communities they power. The better we know you as individuals, the better we can serve you and attempt to align our goals with your changing needs. Please stop by the office to say hello or ask questions and have a cookie and some cider.

Both sizes of the 2027 pocket calendars everyone loves should also have arrived by then. Don't forget to pick one up!

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Don't let phantom energy haunt your electric bill this October. Many electronics continue using electricity even when they're turned off. TVs, gaming systems, coffee makers and phone chargers can quietly draw power around the clock. While each device uses only a small amount, the energy waste can add up over time. Before heading out for Halloween fun, unplug devices you don't use regularly or plug them into a smart power strip that automatically cuts power when equipment is off. It's a simple trick that can help keep phantom energy waste in check.

Source: Dept. of Energy

Safety Tip

Frayed wires, damaged plugs and overloaded outlets can spark a fire. Check cords and plugs regularly and replace worn items. Never run cords under rugs or furniture, and unplug small appliances when not in use.



Safe
Electricity.org®





DID YOU KNOW?

WESTERN ILLINOIS ELECTRICAL COOP. OFFERS AN E-BILL OPTION TO ITS MEMBERS

WHAT IS AN E-BILL?

It is simply an electronic way for you to receive your monthly invoice for electricity from the co-op via your preferred email address. You still receive the same detailed information, but electronically, so there is no paper copy to deal with. This service is designed to reduce waste and save WIEC money which, in turn, helps keep rates as low as possible.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

Contact the office today to provide your email address and we can get you set up immediately. It's quick and simple!

WHAT IF I CHANGE MY MIND AFTER I SET UP E-BILL OR DON'T LIKE IT FOR SOME REASON?

No problem. You are not "locked in" to receiving an e-bill for any specific time period. Simply give us another call and we will be happy to change the account back to the way it was prior to the e-bill request. **3529-28**

GIVE US A CALL TO HELP REDUCE WASTE AND CUT COSTS. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WIEC'S E-BILL OPTION TODAY!

WESTERN ILLINOIS ELECTRICAL COOP. OFFERS MULTIPLE AUTOPAY OPTIONS TO ITS MEMBERS

WHAT IS AUTOPAY?

It is simply an automated way for you to make your electric payment each month on the due date. You still receive a monthly bill for information purposes, but there is nothing more for you to do. There is no need to stop by the office to drop off a payment, no monthly check to write out, nothing to mail in, and there is no need to log on to our website or that of your bank or credit card company to schedule a monthly payment. This service is designed to save WIEC members both time and money, and it is absolutely free to utilize. **353-12**

WHAT ARE MY AUTOPAY OPTIONS?

Western Illinois Electrical Coop. allows automated monthly payments from either a bank account (checking or savings) or from a debit or credit card at no charge to the member. If both autopay options are workable for you, please consider selecting the bank account option. The credit/debit card companies charge WIEC interchange fees, whereas there is no similar charge for the use of bank

accounts. Selecting the bank account options keeps costs as low as possible for the co-op which, in turn, helps keep rates as low as possible.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

Just give us a call at 217-357-3125 during business hours. You will need to provide both the account and routing number information for bank accounts, or the name on the card, card number, expiration date, and 3-digit code for debit or credit card use.

WHAT IF I CHANGE MY MIND AFTER I SET UP AUTOPAY OR DON'T LIKE IT FOR SOME REASON?

That is not a problem at all. You are not "locked in" to using autopay for any specific time period after you sign up. Simply give us another call and we will be happy to change the account back to the way it was prior to the autopay request.

GIVE US A CALL TODAY AND LET US HELP SIMPLIFY YOUR HECTIC LIFE!