

COOPERATIVE CONNECTION

A monthly newsletter connecting our members with their cooperative.

October 2026

Co-op Awareness Month: More than Electricity

The Cooperative Difference at Work

EVERY OCTOBER, COOPERATIVES ACROSS the country celebrate Cooperative Month. At Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, it is an opportunity to recognize something our members experience all year long -- the difference that comes from being served by an organization that is owned by the people it serves.

Wayne-White Electric Cooperative is not owned by distant investors or shareholders. We are owned by the members who receive electricity from our lines. Our board members are elected by those members, and the decisions we make are centered around providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity while doing what is best for the people and communities we serve.

Cooperative Month is a time to recognize what makes the cooperative business model different. At Wayne-White Electric, that difference starts with a simple idea: we belong to the communities we serve.

But being a local electric cooperative means something more, too.

It means the people answering your calls, maintaining your power lines, engineering improvements to our system, keeping our equipment running and working behind the scenes -- are not just Wayne-White Electric employees.

They are your neighbors.

We Live Here, Too

Many Wayne-White Electric employees are also Wayne-White Electric members. They live along the same roads, send their children to the same schools, shop at the same businesses and attend the same community events as the

members they serve.

When severe weather moves through southern Illinois, our employees are not watching the storm from afar. Their homes and families may be affected, too. When a local school celebrates a big win, when a community organization needs volunteers or when someone down the road needs a helping hand, chances are you will find members of the Wayne-White Electric family there.

That connection to our communities does not end when the workday does.

Across our service territory, Wayne-White Electric employees give their time to organizations that help make our communities stronger.

We have employees that serve their communities as volunteer firefighters, answering the call when their neighbors need them most. They also serve on Boards of Education, helping guide the schools that educate the next generation.

There are also employees that serve on their county boards or local Chambers of Commerce, working

alongside other local leaders and businesses to help their communities move forward.

On evenings and weekends, you might find several of our employees in a gym,



Fairfield Rural Fire Chief and Lineman Dave Vaughan

Continued on Page 18B

WHAT'S HAPPENING

- **OCTOBER IS COOPERATIVE AWARENESS MONTH!**
- Oct 1 - Bills Generated
- Oct 2 - Bills Out in Mail
- **Oct 15 - Enfield Open**
- Oct 15 - Bills Due!
- Oct 27 - Board Meeting
- **Oct 29 - Enfield Open**

CONTACT US

Wayne-White Electric Cooperative

Phone: (618) 842-2196

Toll Free: (888) 871-7695

Fax: (618) 842-4497

Pay-by-Phone: (855) 937-1939

www.waynewhitecoop.com

Mailing Address

PO Drawer E, Fairfield, IL 62837

Physical Address

1501 W. Main St., Fairfield, IL 62837

Office Hours

Monday - Friday

7 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Board of Directors

Directors are voted on at each Annual Meeting by the membership. If the election is not contested, the director running will be elected by acclamation.

Chairman

Bryan WilliamsDistrict 5

Vice Chairman

Ken Lamont District 4

Secretary

Richard TalbertDistrict 8

Treasurer

Richard RubenackerDistrict 7

Directors

Larry Hosselton District 1

Blaine NortonDistrict 2

Ryan DuckworthDistrict 3

David HunsingerDistrict 6

Noel EdmisonDistrict 9

Contact your Board of Directors by emailing:
directors@wwcec.com

REMINDER!

****NEW** OFFICE HOURS:**
MONDAY - FRIDAY
7AM - 4PM

TO BETTER SERVE OUR MEMBERS

New Office Hours

Just a reminder that we now have new office hours at our Fairfield headquarters office. Based on feedback from our members, we will now be open from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

To drop off payments or documents after hours, we will have our drive-thru drop box available in front of the Fairfield office, or a drop box by the door at the Enfield office.

Continued from Page 18A



Lineman Todd Robertson & Line Clearance Foreman Zack Coston & boys

And we even have employees who are veterans who have served our country and continue to serve their communities here at home.

Those are only a few examples. Throughout Wayne-White Electric Cooperative, our employees serve on boards and committees, volunteer with local organizations, support community events, coach youth teams and step up when their neighbors need help.

They do it not because it is part of their job description, but because **these are their communities, too.**

Neighbors Serving Neighbors

That is an important part of what the cooperative difference looks like.

Of course, our primary responsibility is providing electricity. Every day, Wayne-White Electric Cooperative employees are working to maintain thousands of poles and miles of electric line, improve reliability, manage vegetation, upgrade equipment, invest in technology and prepare our electric system for the needs of tomorrow.

But our commitment to the communities we serve goes beyond poles and wires.



County Board Member and Assistant System Engineer Landon Vaughan, center.

at a ball field, on the golf course, or on the sidelines, volunteering their time to coach young athletes.

As a cooperative, **Concern for Community** is one of the seven principles that guides what we do. For us, that is not simply something printed on a list of cooperative principles. It is something we see demonstrated by our employees every day.

It is visible when our employees visit schools and community events to teach children about electrical safety.

It is there when we support local organizations, schools and programs throughout our service territory.

It is there when employees volunteer their own time to serve on local boards, coach a team, respond to an emergency or help organize an event.

And it is there in the way our employees approach their jobs each day.

When you are serving people you know -- sometimes friends, relatives and neighbors -- the work becomes personal.



Lineman and Veteran Colton Johnson

More Than a Place to Work

There is something special about being able to drive through our service territory and see more than poles, substations and electric lines.

We see home.

We see the communities where our employees grew up. The schools their children attend. The ball fields where they played and now coach. The churches, organizations and community groups that bring people together.

We also see the members who built this cooperative and continue to own it today.

Nearly nine decades ago, local people came together to bring electricity to rural areas that investor-owned utilities were not willing to serve. They believed their neighbors could accomplish something



Manager of Engineering and School Board Member Josh Scott, far right

extraordinary by working together.

A lot has changed since then. The electric system has become more complex. Technology has advanced. The ways our members use electricity have changed dramatically.

But that original idea has not.

Local people working together to make

their communities better.

That is still at the heart of Wayne-White Electric Cooperative.

During Cooperative Month, we are proud to celebrate the business model that makes Wayne-White Electric Cooperative different. But

we are even more proud of the people who bring that model to life.

Throughout the workday, our employees strive to provide high quality customer and electric service to our members, and they spend their spare time serving their communities in so many various ways.

That is why Wayne-White Electric

Cooperative is more than an electric utility.

We are your friends. We are your neighbors. We are your fellow members.

And we are proud to serve the communities we call home. 



President/CEO Chris Hopfinger coaching daughter Amelia's golf team

Scranton Cancer Fund Needs Your Help - Funds Nearly Out

A CANCER DIAGNOSIS CHANGES nearly every part of a person's life. Suddenly, calendars are filled with appointments, treatments and follow-up visits. Families must balance work, household responsibilities and caregiving while trying to focus on what matters most -- helping their loved one get well.

For many local patients, receiving treatment also means traveling outside their hometown several times each week. Every trip brings additional expenses: gasoline, meals on the road, parking and sometimes an overnight stay. A spouse or family member may also miss work to provide transportation and support.

These costs can add up quickly.

The Dr. Dennis Scranton Memorial Cancer Fund was created to help ease that burden for people in our communities.

Dr. Scranton died in an automobile accident near Fairfield in 2003. Before his death, he had often spoke about the need for a program that could help cancer patients afford treatment-related costs, including the expense of traveling to receive care. Following his passing, his widow, Tracy Scranton, helped turn that concern into a lasting legacy of compassion.

Established in 2004, the fund assists local residents who are receiving active cancer treatment -- including surgery, radiation or

chemotherapy -- at a recognized treatment center. Qualified recipients may receive up to \$500 during a calendar year to help with expenses related to travel and seeking treatment.

That assistance can mean a tank of gas for the next appointment, meals during a long day at a treatment center or help with another necessary travel expense. Most importantly, it lets patients and their families know their community is standing beside them.

In the past year, \$18,000 was distributed to help cancer patients with travel and other treatment-related costs. Since its creation, it has continued to help local families during some of the most difficult days of their lives.

Today, however, the fund is nearly depleted.

Applications for assistance continue to arrive because cancer has not stopped affecting our friends, neighbors and families. The need remains, but the Dr. Dennis Scranton Memorial Cancer Fund depends entirely on donations from the public. Without renewed community support, it may not be able to assist everyone who turns to it for help.

Every donation matters. A gift does not have to be large to make a meaningful difference. When combined with the generosity of others, \$10, \$25 or \$50 can help put fuel

in a patient's vehicle and get that person one step closer to the care they need.

The fund is administered and overseen by the WORKS Board at Wayne-White Electric, which also administers the cooperative's Operation Round-up Kare and Share program. Donations to the cancer fund are used to support local patients who meet the program's eligibility requirements.

Dr. Scranton recognized a need in our communities more than two decades ago. Through this fund, his compassion continues to reach people facing cancer today. With the community's help, that legacy -- and this important source of assistance -- can continue.

Donations may be mailed to:

Dennis Scranton Memorial Cancer Fund
PO Box 700

Fairfield, IL 62837

Donations may also be dropped off at the Wayne-White Electric office in Fairfield.

For questions about donating or applying for assistance, you can call our office at (618) 842-2196. Applications to apply for funding are also available on our website at www.waynwhitecoop.com

Cancer treatment is difficult enough. Together, we can help ensure that the cost of getting there does not become one more burden local families must carry alone. 

Wick Spends Summer in Engineering

Puts computer engineering skills to work updating mapping system



LOCAL STUDENT CODY WICK spent the summer interning in the Engineering Department at Wayne-White Electric Cooperative.

A graduate of Fairfield Community High School, Cody is currently a senior attending Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, majoring in Computer Engineering.

It was a very productive summer for Cody and the engineering department, as Wick helped complete clean-up and maintenance on our GIS mapping system related to equipment, poles, lines, etc. This helped increase the accuracy of our system map.

With the recent merger of Boyleston, Jasper and New Hope Waterworks, Cody was also involved in helping map water lines

and equipment related to the water systems we now do billing and maintenance for.

Prior to interning at Wayne-White Electric Cooperative, Cody had also served as an Engineering Intern at Champion Laboratories in Albion.

When Cody is not at school or studying, you can find him fishing, hunting, riding 4-wheelers or playing video games.

Cody is the son of Clint and Carrie Wick of rural Fairfield.

We want to thank Cody for his dedication and the valuable work he completed this summer during his time at Wayne-White Electric.

All of us here wish him well on his future endeavors! 

Generator Program Sign-up Coming Soon

If you have a whole home generator, this program might be for you!

WAYNE-WHITE ELECTRIC OFFERS A “voluntary” load control program that will provide homeowners with an incentive for allowing us to control your whole house generator during peak demand times in the summer and winter.

Homeowners with stand-by generators could potentially have their power needs switched over to the generator during the load control time.

By participating in this voluntary program, the cooperative will give you a significant discount on your electric bill year-round. To qualify, you must have a stand-by generator with an approved automatic switch for our DRU (demand response unit) to be able to interrupt your power during our peak times. Your generator should also be large enough to handle the entire load for your home.

With your whole-house generator in place, you will not be without electricity. You can only sign up for the program at two different times per year: each summer and winter. The deadline to sign up and have your generator installed for this winter is

November 15, 2026. You would then effectively be in the program beginning January 1, 2027. You must remain in the program for at least 12 months once you sign up. (NOTE: City of Fairfield customers are not eligible for the generator program.)

You can buy your generator at the dealer of your choice. We do not sell them or install them. It does not matter what brand of generator you have, as long as it is large enough to handle the electric load for your home, which in most cases will likely need to be a 20 KW model.

This program is not for generators at businesses or to power farm equipment, such as grain bins or irrigation systems -- ONLY for residential homes on Wayne-White Electric Cooperative lines.

If you install your generator prior to our summer and winter program dates, you can sign-up for our generator program early. You will begin seeing the benefits of the discount on the date closest to your install, assuming you have met the guidelines for proper sizing, and we have installed the DRU unit to control it remotely by that date.

For additional details, including proper sizing requirements based upon your load, call our engineering department at (618) 842-2196.

Area Generator Dealers & Installers:

Carmi

- Generator Johnny (618) 609-9001
- Larry's Electric (618) 265-3706
- Marshall Electric (618) 382-3932
- Seiler Electric (618) 382-7083

Cisne

- R.S. Electric (618) 534-0536

Enfield

- Healy Electric (618) 936-2400

Fairfield

- All-Pro Electric (618) 842-4829
- Carter's Turf (618) 842-9166
- Troyer Electric (618) 847-4317

McLeansboro

- Wuebbles Repair (618) 648-2227

Noble

- Dan's Electric (618) 723-2515

Orchardville

- Sharp Electric (618) 237-6832 