

# Clinton County Connection

Published by Clinton County Electric Cooperative

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## Across the manager's desk



This year, once again, CCEC is hosting three Area Meetings. If you've never attended one of our Area Meetings, you are missing a great experience. These meetings are very informal means of communicating our message to you, the member.

We welcome questions from our members, and we'll listen to all suggestions, comments and ideas that you may have. In fact, we want members to ask questions so with your invitation to attend the Area Meetings that you will be receiving this month, there is room at the bottom for you to write out your question and/or comment. You can cut this out and bring it with you to the Area Meeting. We will have a box at the registration table for you to drop in your questions. We are doing this because we understand that some of you may be reluctant, for whatever reason, to stand up and talk before a

crowd. You need not sign your name to your questions. Refreshments will be served and attendance prizes awarded. We look forward to meeting with you and talking with you at the Area Meetings.

As a consumer-owner of Clinton County Electric, you have a lot of power. You can vote for your board of trustees. You can make your opinions heard at area and annual meetings because you are the owner. And that's a huge advantage over the big companies whose customers have no say in the management of the company. We take the time to listen to our members, to find out what you need and want. Co-ops like Clinton County Electric are unique in the business world.

Take advantage of these Area Meetings. Don't miss this opportunity to meet and talk with your co-op's manager, trustees and employees and find out what's happening at your cooperative. Mark your calendar and make plans today to attend one of the Area Meetings in November.

## Mark your calendars now for the November Area Meetings

**Monday, Nov. 7**

**7:30 PM**

**Albers American Legion**

**Tuesday, Nov. 8**

**1:30 PM**

**Breese K of C (basement)**

**Tuesday, Nov. 8**

**7:30 PM**

**Carlyle VFW (south of Carlyle Super Valu)**

**Topics to be Discussed:** Youth Tour to Washington; Scholarships; Construction; Safety; Rates; Tree Trimming; and lots, lots more!

**You will have a chance to win** cash prizes - \$250 in cash prizes will be awarded at every meeting. Each member will receive an attendance prize upon registering. A light lunch will follow each meeting.

**Be an informed member – attend the 2005 area meetings!**



## Hurricane Katrina

When Hurricane Katrina hit Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama, CCEC linemen Myron Johnson and Ryan Beckmann immediately offered their expertise and assistance. Under the direction of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, based in Springfield, over 150 Illinois cooperative linemen from nearly all of the Illinois cooperatives were sent to cooperatives in Mississippi and Alabama to aid in power restoration efforts.

Myron and Ryan headed for Coast Electric Cooperative in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. One of the most destructive storms in U.S. history, Katrina knocked out power to almost 60,000 Coast Electric Cooperative members. The hurricane devastated coastal areas and destroyed countless homes and buildings far inland. Trees and other debris had to be cleared off roadways before linemen could even think about installing new poles and running new wires

Myron and Ryan left Breese early Wednesday morning (September 7) and arrived ready to begin work about 8 p.m. that same evening. Both linemen informed us that they slept on cots in tents and they worked 14-plus hour days. But even under adverse conditions, everyone was friendly and southern hospitality and cooking was at its best.

As of September 15, the Electric Power Associations of Mississippi reported that just 4 percent of their electric cooperative meters were still without power. At the peak of the storm, 64 percent were without power. They also estimated that more than 50,000 utility poles had been destroyed by Katrina. All of their 25 electric power associations



*A crew from Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Breese, Illinois loads poles at the Kiln Mississippi district office pole yard.*

suffered some loss of service to meters during the storm and as of September 15, 20 of those 25 co-ops had completely restored power. Coast Electric was one of the two electric cooperatives hit the hardest and as of September 15 they still had 8,000 of their 60,000 meters without power.

A couple of fun facts from Coast Electric....as of September 15 it was estimated that 25,000 cross arms, 10,000 transformers, 50,000 insulators and 100,000 automatic splices had been used to restore power to their customers. They used 18,000 gallons of gas per day to keep the trucks rolling and the member service department handled 9,000 calls per day!

## It's Time For A Change

"Why fix it if it ain't broke?" That's the philosophy the Board of Trustees and management at Clinton County Electric share. But sometimes we have to "go with the times." And that's the way it is with our electric bills.

We have to face facts. Our postcard-type bills have become antiquated. Not only are our members' privacy at issue, but the postcard bills sometimes stick together resulting in your neighbor getting your bill in addition to their own and rather than give it back to the Post Office to be re-delivered (or hand-deliver it to you) they might just throw it away.

Starting in the spring of 2006, your electric bills will take on a new look. First of all, the bills will be larger - approximately 7 in x 8 in. And each individual bill will be mailed to you in an envelope. You will need to tear off

the top portion and send it with your payment in the return envelope, provided with each bill.

The new bills will have the same information as the old ones. It will list separately the Facility Charge, WPCA if applicable, KWH consumption and KWH charge, tax and security light charge if applicable. Also listed will be average usage per day and average cost per day, among other pertinent information.

We will publish in future Connections an exact replica of what your bill will look like. Also, we will be posting a new bill on our web site sometime in the future. Check our web page ([cceci.com](http://cceci.com)) periodically for a preview.

We have used the postcard type of bill since 1975. Now it's time to give way to the old and make room for the new.

## 2006 IEC Memorial Scholarships

**Students Encouraged To Apply for 2006 IEC Memorial Scholarships**

Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. manager Jim Riddle has announced that for the eleventh consecutive year the Illinois electric cooperatives will award academic scholarships to high school seniors. Five scholarships in 2006 will be awarded through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. Each of the scholarships will be worth \$1250.



High school seniors pursuing a college education anywhere in the United States are eligible to participate in the program. Three scholarships will be awarded to the son or daughter of an electric cooperative member. A fourth award will go to the son or daughter of an electric cooperative director or employee. A fifth scholarship (new for 2006) will be reserved for use at a two-year Illinois community college, and sons and daughters of electric cooperative members, employees and directors are all eligible. Deadline for applications to be returned to the cooperative is January 1, 2006.

“The purpose of the scholarship program is to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders through memorial gifts,” said Riddle. “Clinton County Electric Coop. and the other Illinois electric cooperatives want to make a difference in their communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by lending a hand to our youth.”

Candidates are judged on the basis of grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay, which demonstrates their knowledge of electric cooperatives.

The IEC Memorial Scholarship Program was established in 1994 by the board of directors of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. For further information on the IEC Memorial Scholarship Program, contact Ahren Langhauser of Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. at (618) 526-7282, or ask your high school guidance counselor.



## LEAVES, LADDERS and Lines



The leaves are starting to fall, and chances are you're getting out the ladder to clean the gutters, using an electric blower to gather the leaves off your lawn, and taking on other jobs around the home that could put you at risk for electric shock.

Be careful how you carry that ladder! If you lift it up in the wrong place, you could brush overhead power lines and give yourself a serious shock. Once the ladder is up and in place, take care as you clean the gutters, and give overhead lines a wide berth. Always be aware of where the lines are, and avoid them.

**Clinton County Electric Cooperative**

618.526.7282 • Breese, Illinois

[www.cceci.com](http://www.cceci.com)

Photos by Catrina McCulley Wagner

# RECIPES

Recipes taken from the August issue of Illinois Country Living magazine.

## Triple Lemon Cake

Pat Harrison

- 1 (18-1/2-oz.) pkg. yellow cake mix
- 1 (3-oz.) pkg. lemon flavored gelatin
- 3/4 C. vegetable oil
- 4 eggs, beaten to blend
- 1/2 C. water
- 1/4 C. fresh lemon juice

### Icing:

- 1 C. sifted powdered sugar
- 3 T. fresh lemon juice
- 1 T. grated lemon peel



**Cake:** Preheat oven to 350°. Grease and flour a 6-cup Bundt pan. Using an electric mixer, beat the first 6 ingredients in a large bowl until smooth. Pour batter into the prepared pan. Bake until tester inserted in the center comes out clean, about 45 minutes. Cool cake in pan for 25 minutes. Invert cake onto a wire rack and cool completely.

**Icing:** Sift together sugar, lemon juice, and lemon peel in a medium bowl until sugar dissolves. Pierce cake with a fork. Spoon glaze over, allowing some to drip down the sides. Yield: 48 cookies.

## Stuffed Mushroom

Jeri Mercola

- 1 lg. mushrooms for stuffing
- 6 T. olive oil, divided
- 1 sm. finely diced onion
- 1 lg. clove finely minced garlic
- 3/4 C. fresh pulled bread crumbs
- 4 T. Parmesan cheese
- 2 T. finely chopped parsley
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper
- 1/2 tsp. oregano



Clean mushrooms well. Remove stems and set aside. Place caps open-side-up in a 2-quart, or larger, Pyrex baker. Chop mushroom stems and sauté them with onion and garlic in 3 T. of olive oil until lightly browned. Meanwhile, combine breadcrumbs, cheese, and seasonings in a bowl. Pour cooked vegetables over all and mix. Pile mixture lightly in caps. Pour a mixture of 3 T. olive oil and 3 T. water into the side of baking dish and cook at 400° for 15-20 minutes.

## Youth To Washington Tour and Youth Day in Springfield

Clinton County Electric will again sponsor up to 12 area sophomores or juniors on a day in Springfield to be held on April 5, sponsored by the co-op and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Of these 12, two will be selected to go to Washington DC in June 2006 for an all-expense paid tour.

**WHO MAY ENTER?** All applicants must be sons or daughters of Clinton County Electric Cooperative members. If you meet that criterion, then you must be a high school sophomore or junior and attending one of the many high schools in the cooperative service area.

Immediate members of the families of Clinton County Electric board of directors or employees are not eligible.

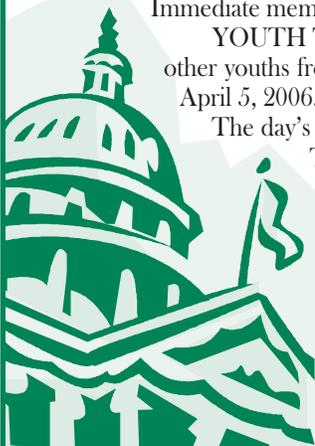
**YOUTH TO SPRINGFIELD.** A panel of judges will choose up to 12 students who will participate with more than 125 other youths from other Illinois electric cooperatives in Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day in Springfield set for Wednesday, April 5, 2006.

The day's activities in Springfield will include touring the state Capitol complex, visiting with legislators and a luncheon.

The two Washington tour winners will be selected from these 12 students.

**WASHINGTON TOUR.** The two local winners will join some 50 other Illinois students, winners of similar contests sponsored by other Illinois electric cooperatives, at Springfield on June 9. They will travel on air-conditioned buses, returning June 16. While in Washington, they will visit such attractions as the White House, U.S. Capitol, Smithsonian Institution, Arlington National Cemetery, Lincoln Monument and many other national monuments and places of interest.

For more information, call Clinton County Electric's Ahren Langhauser, Sue Laux or Jim Riddle at 526-7282. To apply, all you need do is come in and pick up an application or call the co-op and we will mail you one or complete the coupon below and mail it to us or bring it in to the office. Applications must be returned to the co-op no later than January 31, 2006.



PLEASE SEND ME AN APPLICATION AND MORE INFORMATION ON "YOUTH DAY IN SPRINGFIELD" AND "YOUTH TO WASHINGTON"

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I attend (name of high school) \_\_\_\_\_

Class year: (check one) Sophomore \_\_\_\_\_ Junior \_\_\_\_\_

Mail or bring to: Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. P.O. Box 40, Breese, IL 62230  
Applications must be returned to the co-op no later than January 31, 2006

## October Is Co-op Month

Finding the best solution by working together – that’s what cooperatives are all about!

Member-owned and democratically controlled enterprises, cooperatives belong to the people who use them – people who have organized to provide themselves with the goods and services they need when those needs are not being met by other types of businesses.

Why are cooperatives different? Since cooperatives are owned and controlled by its members, cooperatives put people first. More than 48,000 cooperatives exist for farming, banking, housing, childcare, health care, electric and telephone service, food retailing, etc.

Here are some interesting facts about Clinton County Electric...

- CCEC has 1,029 miles of energized line.
- CCEC serves 5,555 member/owners.
- CCEC serves 5.4 consumers per mile of line.
- The average monthly KWH usage per CCEC member is 1,825.
- The number of local area full-time employees at CCEC is 18.

The Cooperative is your lifeline to the world. The same electricity that lights your nights and heats your home also bring you local radio broadcasts and world-wide news and live telecasts from such scenes as the recent destruction of Hurricane Katrina. It powers the computer you use and navigates the World Wide Web. You can travel the world without ever leaving home and you can count on the co-op to make that happen.

All of the Cooperative employees are working together to bring you a lifestyle that you are entitled to.

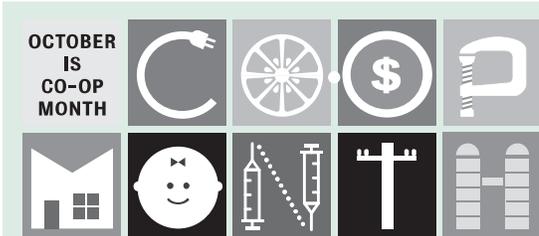


Our linemen go above and beyond the call of duty. They are committed to you, their neighbors and friends, and in serving you the most reliable power available.

Clinton County Electric linemen are: (left to right) Allan Deiters, Ryan Beckmann, Scott Toennies, Myron Johnson, Brian Taylor, Mike Faust, Gary Albers, Doug Vonder Haar, Dale Nordike and Mike Rainey.



Office employees working inside the friendly confines of Clinton County Electric: (seated, left to right) Cathy Markus, Mary Jane Richter and Sue Laux. (Standing, second row, left to right) Harry Buller, Jim Riddle, Ralph Kuhl, Bob Kroeger and Ahren Langhauser.



## Financial Information

### BALANCE SHEET

As of August 31, 2005

#### ASSETS (What We Own):

Total Utility Plant	\$18,263,828
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	7,231,106
Net Utility Plant	\$11,032,722
Cash & Temporary Investments	107,476
Investments in Associated Organizations	618,619
Accounts Receivable	92,979
Materials & Supplies	336,938
Prepayments & Other Deferred Expenses	2,356,817
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$14,330,599</b>

#### MEMBERS' EQUITY & LIABILITIES (What We Owe):

Members' Capital Credits	\$6,076,143
Other Equities	210,879
Long-Term Debt	7,579,637
Consumer Deposits	95,398
Other Liabilities & Deferred Income	368,542
<b>Total Members' Equity &amp; Liabilities</b>	<b>\$14,330,599</b>

### STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the Eight Months Ended August 31, 2005

#### INCOME:

Sale of Electricity & Other Services	\$7,332,169
Other Income	58,358
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$7,390,527</b>

#### EXPENSES:

Cost of Electric Power	\$5,119,154
Operations & Maintenance Expenses	568,298
General & Administrative Expenses	620,297
System Depreciation	353,073
Interest Expense	255,641
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,916,463</b>

#### NET MARGINS

**\$474,064**

## Just A Reminder

When you receive your electric bill and the amount doesn't look right to you, please call us immediately and we will go over it with you.

Mistakes can happen and occasionally we can have an incorrect meter reading or enter a meter reading into the computer incorrectly. Most of the time we catch these before the bills go out, but mistakes can happen, and we are no exception to that rule. All it takes is a phone call.

Needless to say, when a bill seems extremely high, members call us right away. But it is equally as important to call us if your bill is unusually low. This means that there could be a problem with the meter stopping. This is a difficult problem to catch right away and the longer it goes undetected the worse it gets. When we finally discover this problem, then we have to play "catch up" with past bills.

So any bill too small or too large needs to be investigated by us. All it takes is a phone call.

## Office Closings



Clinton County Electric Cooperative will be closed on Friday, November 11, as we pay tribute to all the men and women who have served our country in the past and we also honor the men and women who are serving our country

at the present time.

Clinton County Electric will be closed Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup> for the Thanksgiving holiday. As we take time to reflect on the many things we have for which to give thanks, please be careful on our highways and be safe.



## Get Well Soon

CCEC's former manager, Bob Vander Pluym, is recuperating from heart by-pass surgery on Sept. 14. Bob suffered a heart attack on Sept. 11 and was air-lifted from St. Joseph's Hospital in Breese to Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. Bob spent a little over two weeks at the St. Louis Hospital and is currently recuperating at St. Joseph's hospital in Highland. Hope you're back in the swing of things soon!



## FALL Back

Remember...Daylight Saving Time ends. Be sure to set your clocks back Saturday, October 29.



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 I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions and/or civil sanctions.

/s/ Susan M. Laux, Editor

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