Clinton County
Connection
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Across the manager's desk

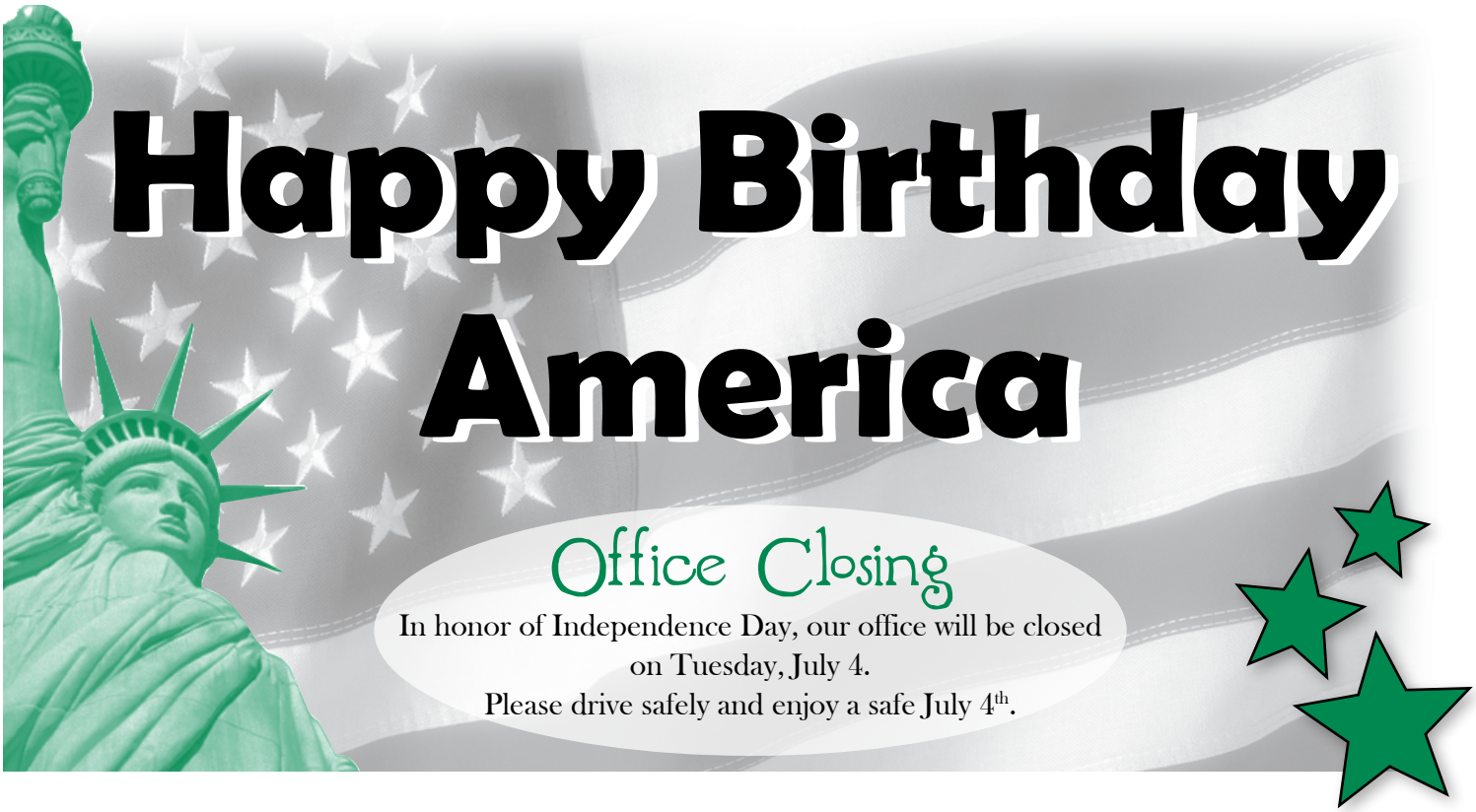
By now, all of you should have received your May electric bill in its new format. We have had many comments – good and bad – concerning the new bills, in addition to suggestions to make them a little more user friendly.

After the first few days of receiving payments with the new stubs, it became obvious to us that many of you were paying the amount with the penalty (the amount due after the 25th of the month), instead of the net amount due. So we are working to make that part easier to read. Also, those of you who are on Budget Billing voiced concerns over the Balance Forward portion of the bill and this too, we are working on to make more understandable.

We had questions as to the cost of the new bills compared to the old post-card type bills. Actually, the new bills are less expensive to process than the old ones. With each new bill is a reply envelope to be used when mailing in your payment. We will not be mailing you packets of envelopes every two years, thus eliminating an expensive and time-consuming process. Processing the new paper bills gives us a wider range of uses such as being able to automatically mail multiple bills for the same member in one envelope. This will reduce our postage costs and save time by eliminating the need to manually handle these bills. This also allows us to get the bills mailed earlier each month.

The new bills afford more privacy to our members than did the old postcard-type bills. And the privacy issue is of great concern to us. Also, now we have the ability to give you more information regarding the cooperative – information about rates, programs or up-coming events.

The post card bills served us well over the past years, but now it's time to make way for the new.



The Biggest Energy Uses In Your Home

Heating and cooling are the largest energy uses in an average home, so stopping air infiltration is critical, in both winter and summer.

The next largest energy use in a typical home is hot water. A typical family of four will use 1,800 gallons a months, which takes about 450 kwh.

- When you take a bath, do you use hot water sparingly, or is the tub full?
- Do you stay in the shower for a long time, or do you take short showers?
- Do you repair leaky faucets, or let them drip?
- Do you run washers and dishwashers with full loads, or just whenever it is convenient?
- Are your hot water pipes insulated?

Do you fix leaky faucets, or let them drip?

Ways you can help control your electric usage

- Fix leaky hot water faucets.
- Relocate thermostats away from drafty or chilly areas.
- Replace older, less energy-efficient appliances.
- Repair windows that don't close properly.
- Replace furnace and air conditioner filters.
- Clean dryer lint traps.
- Close fireplace dampers when not in use.
- Replace single-pane windows.

Blue Sky Outages

You can't always blame the weather for power outages. It's a beautiful day outside with nary a cloud in the sky – and then your power goes off!! It's not lightning! It's not raining or the wind isn't blowing hard! What's going on?

Would you believe a bird? A squirrel? A raccoon? All of these plus other "critters" can and do cause power outages.

Sometimes the day after a bad storm, even though the bad weather has moved on, a fuse that had been weakened during a previous outage will fail, causing another outage.

Then there are times when construction equipment and/or farm equipment can take out a pole or a line. Car wrecks can wipe out a pole and line in the middle of the night or on a clear, blue-sky, beautiful day. Or, for some unknown reason, our power line equipment can fail. Vandalism, although rare in Clinton County, has caused severe outages in surrounding areas.

And, then, of course, there are the trees. Trees cause outages in good and bad weather and also cause blinking light problems. If you see a line growing in tree limbs, give us a call and we'll come out and trim that tree during working hours before it causes an outage in the middle of the night.

Photo courtesy of Illinois Country Living

Clinton County Electric linemen work hard to keep your power on, as well as to get your power back on when there is an outage.

Did You Call J.U.L.I.E. ???

Is it necessary to call JULIE if I'm just planting a tree?
Absolutely.

It doesn't matter how deep you're digging, you're required by Illinois law to call JULIE at least 48 hours/two working days before you begin.

Every time you dig, you are required by Illinois law to call JULIE. Whether you're using a shovel or a backhoe, it doesn't matter. You could be locating a garden, planting trees, moving a mailbox or putting in a new clothesline. All digging projects, regardless of depth, REQUIRE a CALL to JULIE.

Digging into an underground line could cause serious injuries or death. If someone neglects to call JULIE and digs into a line, he/she is responsible for the costs to make repairs. Even building a permanent structure ABOVE ground, without calling JULIE, is a major risk. If underground facilities run beneath your new building or under that new swimming pool, it's your responsibility to pay for repairs.

Don't take chances. The call to JULIE is free to both homeowners and professionals and the JULIE telephones are manned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The process is quite simple. The person placing the call to JULIE should be the same person who will be doing the digging. Excavators must place their own calls. Call JULIE at least 48 hours/two working days before you want to start digging. (The project must begin within 14 calendar days from the call.) The operator will need the location of the digging site (county, street address and nearest cross street), project (a precise definition of the type of work planned, extent of work, planned start date and time), and contact information (your name and phone number and the name and mailing address of the homeowner or contractor.) It is a good idea to mark the proposed digging location with white paint, white flags and/or white stakes.

JULIE neither owns nor marks any underground facilities. JULIE acts as a message relay service. A representative from each member utility must mark the approximate location of their buried equipment with colored flags corresponding to the type of service provided. (See chart below)

Each utility is responsible for their own lines and each locating request must be completed within two working days.

Never remove the flags. Once the digging project is complete, only the person in charge of the project should remove the flags.

Plan ahead. A simple call can prevent costly damages, serious injuries or death. Remember to call JULIE 48 hours/two working days prior to beginning your next digging project. Call (800) 892-0123.

Call Before You Dig

JULIE
ILLINOIS ONE-CALL SYSTEM

Gas, oil or petroleum	High visibility yellow
Electric	Fire protection red
Communication telephone, tv	Alert Orange
Potable water	Precaution blue
Sewer	Safety green
Proposed area of evacuation	Safety white

Our Linemen in Action

On the morning of May 7th, a vehicle hit a three phase breaker pole on Ellwood Rd. and caused an outage in the Saint Rose area. Temporary repairs were made at that time to return power to all members but our crews returned the following day to make permanent repairs. Below are some pictures of the lineman making the repairs and replacing the pole.

Lineman Ryan Beckmann disconnects the remaining breakers from the broken pole.

Foreman Myron Johnson operates the digger to drill the new hole for the replacement pole.

Linemen Ryan Beckmann and Allan Deiters assemble the hardware on the new pole.

The new pole is positioned in place and set while the energized wires are pulled out of the way.

Linemen Ryan Beckmann and Scott Toennies cut the energized wires to attach them to a switch connected to new 7200 Volt breakers.

RECIPES

Photo by Catrina McCulley Wagner

Recipes taken from the June issue of Illinois Country Living

Sweet Potato Chips
Chipasha Lwao

1 lg. sweet potato
oil for deep frying
1/2 tsp salt
1/2 tsp chili powder
pepper to taste

Wash the sweet potato and peel. Wash again to remove any remaining sand. Dry the sweet potato and cut into wedges. Heat the oil in a pan and deep fry the wedges until golden brown. Season with salt, pepper and chili powder and serve with any sandwich, meat or vegetable.

Blueberry Betty
Kay Kiefer

4 C. bread cubes (1/2-inch)
3/4 C. melted butter
1/4 C. sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon
2 C. fresh or frozen blueberries
2 T. lemon juice
1/2 C. brown sugar

Toss bread cubes with butter, sugar and cinnamon. Sprinkle berries with lemon juice and brown sugar. Alternate layers of bread cubes with fruit mixture, spreading evenly in 7-1/2x12-inch baking dish. Bake at 350° for 20-30 minutes or until bubbly. Serve with whipped cream.

Your Health And You

- Children who drink flavored milk consume more calcium than those who don't because they consume fewer highly sugared soft drinks and fruit drinks.
- If you have pain in your chest that worsens and lasts for more than five minutes – especially if you're short of breath or feel weak, nauseated or lightheaded – call 911. You could be having a heart attack and require immediate medical attention. If blood flow isn't restored to the heart within 20 minutes, permanent damage can occur.
- Top low-fat, low-cost snacks: celery, store-brand low-fat or plain yogurt, carrots, dill pickles, canned vegetable or vegetable-beef soup, pretzels, bananas, oatmeal and whole-wheat English muffins.
- 5 million people worldwide died from smoking-related illnesses in 2000, one study found. Cardio-vascular disease and lung cancer were the two leading killers.
- Being overweight causes nearly as many preventable deaths as smoking. About 430,000 Americans die each year from tobacco-related conditions, and about 300,000 die annually from illnesses related to being overweight.
- Not consuming enough vitamin B6 can cause moodiness and fatigue, one study found. Good sources of the vitamin include avocados, bananas and tuna.
- If you crave sugar, add more whole grains, cheeses and red meat to your diet. These foods contain chromium, a mineral that regulates blood sugar levels and curbs these cravings.
- Give yourself an energy boost by drinking water every 15 to 30 minutes. Your body has to work to warm up the water and sends a wake-up signal to your brain.

CCEC Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the following students for having won the Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. scholarship from their respective schools:

Carlyle High School - Julie Cole, daughter of CCEC members Randall & Marlene Cole

Wesclin High School - Erika Boeckmann, daughter of CCEC members Louis H. & Darlene L. Boeckmann

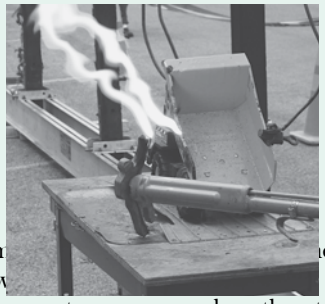
Mascoutah High School - Rachael Mueth, daughter of CCEC members Eric & Mary Mueth

Mater Dei High School - Brett Huelsmann, son of CCEC members Jerry & Karen Huelsmann

Central High School - Brittney Koerkenmeier, daughter of CCEC members Roger & Julie Koerkenmeier

Live Line Demonstration At Carlyle Lake

Several CCEC employees traveled to Carlyle to participate in the Corps of Engineers Earth Day on April 21, 2006. The linemen used the Live Line Demo to teach 300 area grade school students power line safety. The students learned the hazards associated with animals, tall farm/work equipment, tree limbs and fallen power lines. The demonstration is shared by CCEC and several other area co-ops.



Liner n en a vehic w The picture shows what may happen to a person when they touch the energized vehicle.

Hot d when a hun line. The line that the hot dogs are touching is 7,200 Volts.

Liner s the stude n.

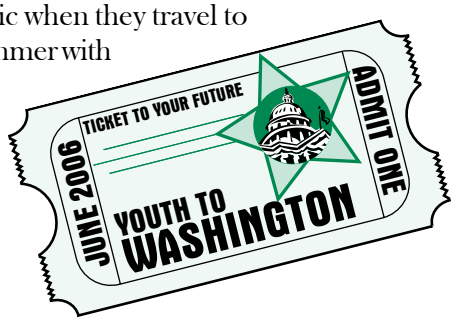
CCEC Sponsors Four Students For Youth Day In Springfield

The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives sponsored the "2006 Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day." The purpose of the Youth Day is to help students learn about cooperatives and meet some of their legislators and see our state government in action. Four high school students from the CCEC area were chosen to attend the Youth Day and joined more than 200 high school students from around the state for the day's activities. The day included touring the Capitol Building, the State Supreme Court and the New Abraham Lincoln Museum and Library. Two of the students were chosen to attend the Youth Tour to Washington D.C. in June 2006.

Pictured from left: Sen. Dave Luechtefeld, Jayne Kues of Germantown, Sen. Frank Watson, Jennifer Ratermann of Aviston, Ahren Langhauser of CCEC, Jared Huelsmann of Trenton, Brandon Schrage of Highland and Rep. John O. Jones.

The 2006 winners of the Youth to Washington from Clinton County Electric are Jayne Kues, daughter of Mrs. Jill Kassen of Germantown and Mr. Jim Kues of Aviston, and Brandon Schrage, son of Mr. and Mrs. Matt Schrage of Highland.

Jayne and Brandon will be outstanding representatives for Clinton County Electric when they travel to Washington, D.C. this summer with approximately 80 other students representing cooperatives throughout Illinois. Congratulations Jayne and Brandon!



Financial Information

BALANCE SHEET

As of April 30, 2006

ASSETS (What We Own):

Total Utility Plant	18,696,348
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	7,468,589
Net Utility Plant	11,227,759
Cash & Temporary Investments	0
Investments in Associated Organizations	607,437
Accounts Receivable	291,104
Materials & Supplies	372,720
Prepayments & Other Deferred Expenses	1,759,598
Total Assets	**14,258,618**

MEMBERS' EQUITY & LIABILITIES (What We Owe):

Members' Capital Credits	6,166,357
Other Equities	220,454
Long-Term Debt	6,645,152
Consumer Deposits	103,136
Other Liabilities & Deferred Income	1,123,519
Total Members' Equity & Liabilities	**14,258,618**

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the Four Months Ended April 30, 2006

INCOME:

Sale of Electricity & Other Services	3,766,441
Other Income	17,778
Total Income	**3,784,219**

EXPENSES:

Cost of Electric Power	2,680,223
Operations & Maintenance Expenses	317,259
General & Administrative Expenses	357,958
System Depreciation	183,616
Interest Expense	144,941
Total Expenses	**3,683,997**

NET MARGINS **100,222**

STAY PUT

and Stay Safe

You've come into contact with an electric line. Whether you've hit a utility pole with your car and the line has fallen down, or you've tangled your combine or dump bed in an overhead line, stay put. The situation is very dangerous. Unless you're in immediate danger from fire or sparks, stay where you are and call for help. If you must leave the vehicle, jump as far away from the vehicle as you can with both feet together, and never allow your body to come into contact with the ground and vehicle at the same time.

Clinton County Electric Cooperative
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Carlyle Lake Summer Beach Blast

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be hosting the Third Annual Carlyle Lake Beach Blast on Saturday, June 17, in the Dam West Recreation Area from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The highlight for this year's event will be a 12 by 20 foot sand sculpture, being created by Team Sandtastics, from Sarasota, Florida, which holds many state, national and international titles, including World Champion for placing first in the World Championship Sand Sculpture Contest. Team Sandtastics also holds the Guinness World Record for tallest sandcastle ever hand built in under 100 man hours.

Carlyle Radio Station WCXO 96.7 FM will be broadcasting live from the picnic area for the duration of the event. Listen in for starting times of the contests, tournaments, and other activities taking place during the day including a beach volleyball tournament and a sand castle building contest hosted by the Corps of Engineers, and a side walk chalk art contest sponsored by the Carlyle Celebrate the Arts Council.

Other activities taking place during the day include a bike safety presentation by the Clinton County Sheriff's Department, sun protection by St. Joseph's Hospital, and water safety activities presented by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Illinois State Police will also be on hand with the rollover simulator and the Huey and Carlyle Fire Departments will have the Smoke House on site.

The Carlyle Celebrate the Arts Council will have a spin art booth and will be offering air brush tattoos. Also, keep an eye out for Sunny the Clown who will be creating balloon animals for the kids and a giant six foot beach ball decked out with water safety messages, which will be floating around the beach area. Food and beverage vendors will also be on site for the event. Be sure to stop by the Visitor Center as well, where the American Red Cross will be hosting a blood drive from 12 –4p.m.

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