



# Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

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*Clinton County Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting of the Membership will be held on Thursday, August 19, 2021 at Central Community High School in Breese, IL. Registration will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the business meeting, including trustee elections, will begin at 7:30 p.m.*

## Congratulations to all of the 2021 CCEC scholarship recipients!

Clinton County Electric Cooperative proudly offers two \$500 scholarships to senior students from Carlyle, Central, Christ Our Rock, Mascoutah, Mater Dei and Wesclin High Schools. The following students, whose primary residence is served by CCEC, were awarded \$500 scholarships this past May:

### CARLYLE HIGH SCHOOL

- Alyssa Nattier, daughter of Stacy and Stephanie Nattier
- Brandon Schneider, son of Todd and Carla Schneider

### CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

- Riley Fisher, daughter of Matt and Sherry Fisher
- Zach Kampwerth, son of Matt and Tanya Kampwerth

### CHRIST OUR ROCK LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

- Mallory Selle, daughter of Corey and Gina Selle
- Abigail Kleiboeker, daughter of Cory and Annette Kleiboeker

### MASCOUTAH HIGH SCHOOL

- Eileen Kordick, daughter of Tom and Jennifer Kordick

- Jenna Schanz, daughter of Jamie and Jody Schanz

### MATER DEI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

- Carter Ritzheimer, son of Kyle and Michelle Ritzheimer
- Nicholas Timmermann, son of Jeff and Lynn Timmermann

### WESCLIN HIGH SCHOOL

- Lauren Bray, daughter of Kurt and Lisa Bray
- Abigail Oster, daughter of Brad and Kristen Oster

# FREE AND EASY WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY

Here are 10 easy, no-cost ways to save energy this summer:



**1.** Close or lower window coverings during the heat of the day



**2.** Set your thermostat a few degrees higher



**3.** Take cooler showers (this feels better in the summer, anyway)



**4.** Use countertop appliances or a microwave instead of your oven



**5.** Better yet, grill or smoke food outdoors



**6.** Unplug that extra fridge, especially older, inefficient models (they have to work even harder in a hot garage)



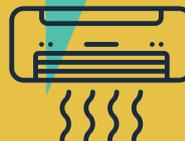
**7.** Optimize your programmable thermostat's features (around 40% of homeowners never program them)



**8.** Check the airflow around windows and doors (add weather stripping if needed)



**9.** Unplug all chargers and electronics before leaving the house



**10.** SHUT THE FRONT DOOR (don't air condition the outdoors)

Safe  Learn more at:  
**Electricity.org**<sup>®</sup>

# Don't fall victim to utility scams

Every day, millions of Americans are targeted by scammers through phone calls, emails, text messages, online or in person. Scammers' tactics can change daily, which is why it's important for consumers to stay on top of the latest scam reports from local and national news outlets, as well as your local utility companies. In many cases, co-op members are targeted through a phone scam where the scammers demanded immediate payment and threatened to shut off power if the money was not received. Remember, Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) will never call you and demand immediate payment without notice.

We want you to be aware of two trending scam tactics. One is the overpayment trick, where a scammer contacts you and claims that you have overpaid your utility bill. The scammer will say they need your personal banking information to deposit the credit back to your checking account. Don't fall for this scam! If you make an overpayment on your energy bill, CCEC will automatically apply the credit to your account, which will carry over to your next billing cycle. Another trending scam is smishing (short for SMS phishing). Many

consumers know to watch out for suspicious emails, but we tend to trust text messages sent to our smartphones. Always question suspicious texts, especially from someone claiming to represent a utility. These are just a couple examples of trending scams, so it's important to watch for any red flags.

Here are a few reminders on how to take control of the situation when you've been targeted by a scammer:

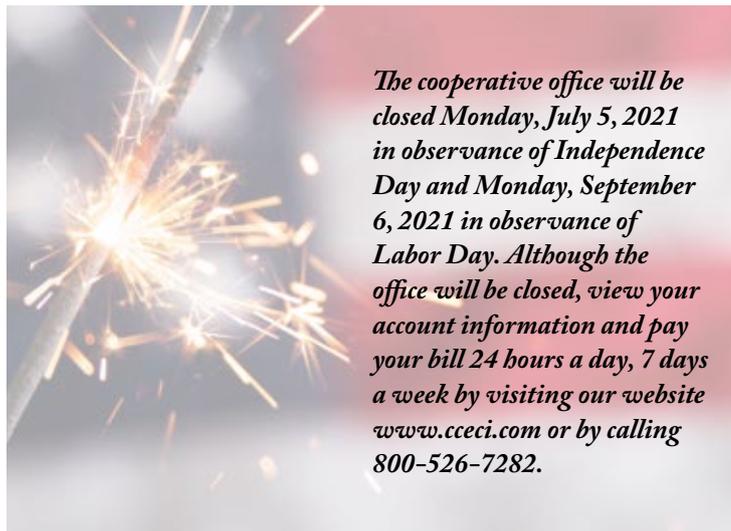
- **Take your time.** Utility scammers try to create a sense of urgency so that you'll act fast and hand over personal information, especially over the phone. Take a moment to think about the situation before acting.
- **Be suspicious.** Scammers typically request immediate payments through prepaid debit cards or third-party apps. Unusual requests like this should raise red flags. Remember, if the request seems strange and out of the ordinary, you're likely being targeted by a scammer.
- **Confirm before you act.** If you're contacted by someone claiming to represent CCEC or another utility but you're unsure, just hang up the

phone and call the utility directly. You can reach us at 1-800-526-7282 to verify the situation.

Our increasingly connected world provides scammers with more opportunities to connect with unsuspecting consumers. Be vigilant, and please report any utility scams to CCEC so we can let others in our community know. Together, we can help prevent our friends and neighbors from being victimized.



*Did you know, you do not need a Facebook account to view the information we share? Simply go to our website, [www.cceci.com](http://www.cceci.com), and scroll down until you see our Facebook information. There you can look through our posts without having to log into an actual Facebook account.*



*The cooperative office will be closed Monday, July 5, 2021 in observance of Independence Day and Monday, September 6, 2021 in observance of Labor Day. Although the office will be closed, view your account information and pay your bill 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by visiting our website [www.cceci.com](http://www.cceci.com) or by calling 800-526-7282.*

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat (like clothes dryers and dishwashers) during the evening when it's cooler. This will minimize indoor heat during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest.



# Considering Solar? Call us first!

As interest in “green” energy and ways to save money on utility bills continue to grow, some cooperative members may be considering the installation of a solar array.

Since these types of systems have the capability of returning electricity back to the electric grid, there are some major safety considerations to sort through before a system is installed.

Before deciding to buy a solar array, examine the economics to determine if such a system will lower your monthly electricity costs. If you do decide to install a solar array, contact our office as early as possible in the process.

A CCEC representative will provide information on our interconnection process and policies, as well as answer any questions you may have. That way, you and your installer will have the information needed as you progress with your system.

*For more information on CCEC policies and requirements, please contact our office Monday through Friday, between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 800-526-7282.*



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