Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperative Memorial Scholarship Program

The Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program awards seventeen $2,000 scholarships annually to deserving students in the "electric cooperative family" entering college to assist them with their educational costs.

About the scholarships

10 scholarships are awarded to high school students who are the child of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative (deadline to apply Dec. 31, 2023).

5 scholarships are reserved for high school students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the child of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors (deadline to apply Dec. 31, 2023).

1 scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, is awarded to a high school student who is the child of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director (deadline to apply Dec. 31, 2023).

1 scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker's Scholarship, is awarded to a student to attend the lineworker's school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, IL (deadline to apply April 30, 2024).

For more information about the IEC Memorial Scholarships, please contact:

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Stay safe going over the river and through the woods

The holiday season is a busy time of year for many of us. Along with putting out decorations and baking cookies, we often spend more time in our cars than usual — shopping for presents, traveling to family gatherings or attending holiday events. However, all that time in the car can also mean facing extreme weather conditions that can make safe driving difficult.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, winter weather conditions such as snow, sleet and slush cause more than 550,000 traffic accidents each year, leading to approximately 138,000 injuries and 1,700 fatalities.

Along with risk of injury, possible damage to your vehicle and plain inconvenience, collisions may also involve downed power lines or other electrical hazards. Unfortunately, when this happens, it adds another significant danger to the mix that can cause severe shock, burns or electrocution. Knowing what to do in this situation can save lives.

If you are in an accident involving a downed power line:

- Call 911 and tell the dispatcher a downed power line or other electrical equipment is involved in a collision. Co-op personnel will be dispatched to the scene to deenergize the power.
- Put your window down and alert others not to approach the scene. They could be shocked or electrocuted if they walk or run over the energized area or touch anything that is energized.
- Never attempt to drive over a power line or through water, snow or other debris that could be hiding one. There is no way to tell if a power line is energized, even if it is not sparking or buzzing.
- Do not exit the vehicle unless the vehicle is on fire or you see smoke. The vehicle acts as an insulator that keeps you safe from stray electricity.
- If you must exit the vehicle, cross your arms across your chest, put your feet together and make a clean jump from the vehicle. Then hop with feet together as far as you can — at least 50 feet away. Once a power line is in contact with a car or truck, the ground or other objects, it energizes the area. The electrical current spreads to the vehicle and ground, and it ripples out. Each "ring" of the ripple represents a different voltage. Stepping from one voltage to the next can cause your body to become a path for electricity and electrocute you.
- If a power line is inside the vehicle due to damage or an open window, stay in the vehicle. Do not touch or try to move the wire. Do not attempt to use other objects to move it.
- If your vehicle collides with a pad-mounted transformer, which houses electrical equipment connected to underground power lines, the same safety precautions apply.

Keep your family safe while on the road this holiday season! For more information about safety around electricity, go to SafeElectricity.org.

2024 Youth Day and Youth Tour

Clinton County Electric is sponsoring up to 12 area sophomores, juniors or seniors to attend Youth Day in Springfield, sponsored by Clinton County Electric Cooperative and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Two participants attending Youth Day will be selected to go to Washington, D.C., for an all-expense-paid trip. See our January 2024 issue for more details.

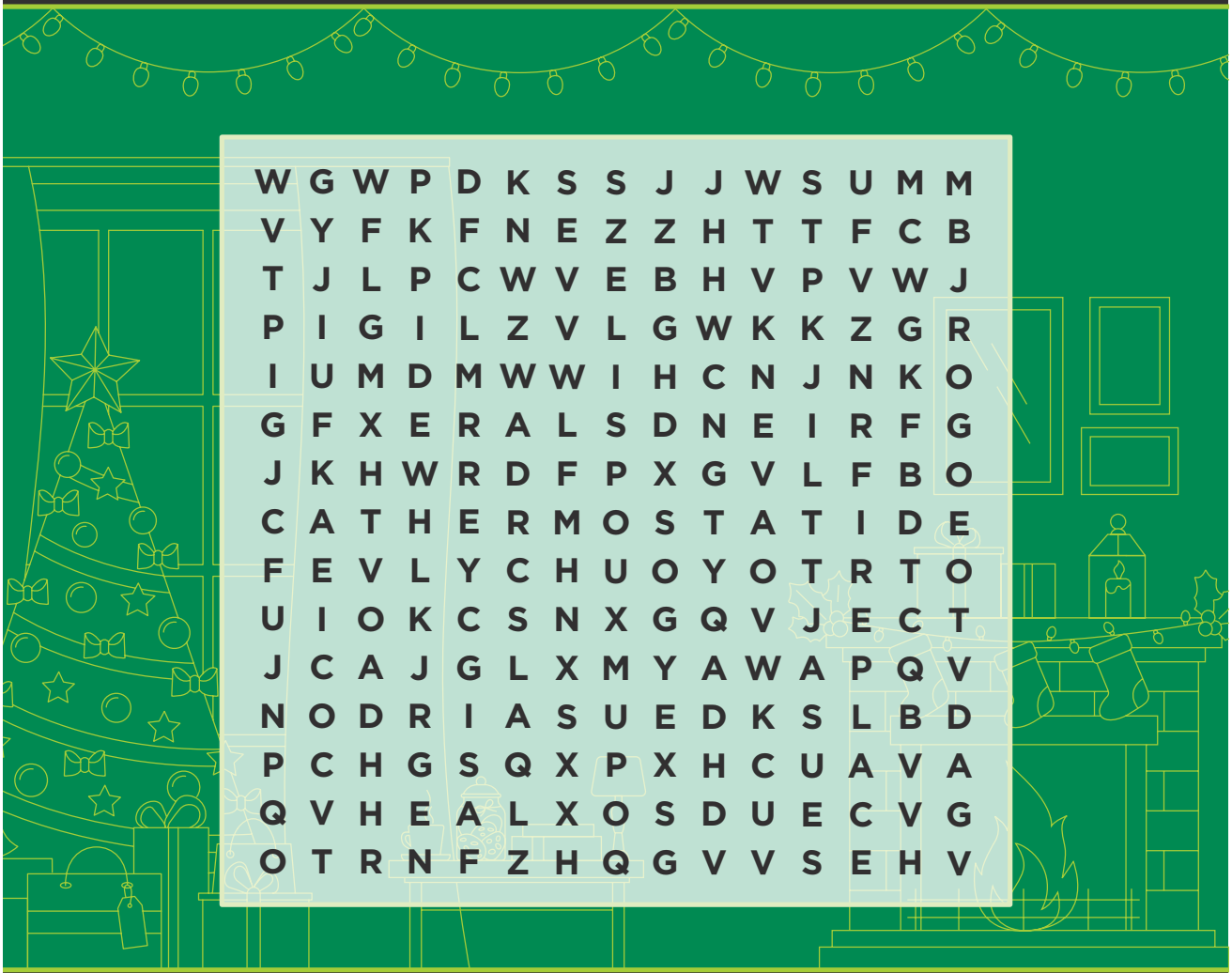
Do not provide any information or agree to immediate payment; instead hang up and check with your utility by using the phone number listed on your power bill.

HOLIDAY EFFICIENCY WORD SEARCH

The holidays are a fun, festive time of year! We typically use more electricity during the holiday season.

Read the holiday efficiency tips below, then find and circle the **bolded** words in the puzzle.

Energy Explorers



W G W P D K S S J J W S U M M
V Y F K F N E Z Z H T T F C B
T J L P C W V E B H V P V W J
P I G I L Z V L G W K K Z G R
I U M D M W W I H C N J N K O
G F X E R A L S D N E I R F G
J K H W R D F P X G V L F B O
C A T H E R M O S T A T I D E
F E V L Y C H U O Y O T R T O
U I O K C S N X G Q V J E C T
J C A J G L X M Y A W A P Q V
N O D R I A S U E D K S L B D
P C H G S Q X P X H C U A V A
Q V H E A L X O S D U E C V G
O T R N F Z H Q G V V S E H V

- Decorate your tree with energy-saving **LED lights**.
- Control home heating costs with a smart or programmable **thermostat**.
- Save energy by using a **timer** to turn off holiday lights when you're sleeping.
- If you have a **fireplace**, ask an adult to close the damper when a fire is not burning.
- Open blinds and curtains during the day to let **sunlight** in to warm your home.
- Lower the thermostat when you invite **friends** and **family** over. *(The extra people in your home creates additional warmth.)*

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

In observance of the following holidays, the cooperative office will be closed:

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day,
Friday, Dec. 22 and Monday, Dec. 25
New Year's Eve & New Year's Day,
Friday, Dec. 29 and Monday, Jan. 1

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 at www.cceci.com or by calling 800-526-7282.

The Trustees and Employees of Clinton County Electric wish everyone

a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

John Becker

Cary Dickinson

Robert Gerstenecker

Tim Hanke

Stephen Kalmer

Kevin Kampwerth

Rodney Timmermann

Joseph Voss

Kevin Wiegmann

Craig Benhoff

Ron Deien

Mike Faust

Jacob Haselhorst

Justin Hubert

Jared Kampwerth

Brenda Knolhoff

Mike Korte

Bob Kroeger

Ralph Kuhl

Sam Kuhl

Ahren Langhauser

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Doug Vonder Haar

Kyle Wiegmann