

ALONG THE LINES



DEDICATED TO PROVIDING RELIABLE SERVICE FOR OUR MEMBERS.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

APRIL 2025
VOL.18, NO. 4

**LINEWORKER
APPRECIATION
MONTH** pg. 2

**MORE DEMAND RATE
INFORMATION**
pgs. 6-9

**SAFE DIGGING MONTH:
CALL 811**
pg. 10

APRIL CALENDAR



April is Safe Digging Month

Apr 14th: Lineworker Appreciation Day

Apr 21-25: Work Zone Awareness Week

Apr 22: Earth Day

Apr 25th: Arbor Day

Apr 28th: Board Election Petitions Due

SAVE THE DATE!
JUNE 12, 2025
MJM'S ANNUAL MEETING

HOLIDAYS OBSERVED:

New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, the day following Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve.



OFFICE: 217-707-6156
FAX: 217-854-3918

18300 SHIPMAN ROAD (PO BOX 80)
CARLINVILLE, IL 62626

WWW.MJMEC.COOP



LINEWORKERS ARE WIRED FOR SERVICE

APRIL 14TH IS LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY



BY MJM PRESIDENT/CEO, JOE HEYEN



In the early hours before dawn breaks, while many of us are still sleeping in our beds, lineworkers begin their day, often dressed in flame-resistant clothing, safety goggles, rubber gloves and thick, heavy boots.

These individuals are a great example of dedication to service in its purest form. As we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 14, this is an important moment to reflect on the essential role they play in our daily lives.

Often working on towering utility poles and power lines, lineworkers exhibit a strength that goes far beyond the physical. Whether battling severe weather, troubleshooting technical problems or navigating treacherous heights, lineworkers demonstrate resilience and a quiet determination to keep our lights on, our homes comfortable, and our communities connected.

MJM crews travel across our multi-county service territory, building, maintaining and repairing parts of our local system. Their extraordinary skills ensure our homes remain connected to the grid, businesses stay operational, and emergency services remain accessible—a lifeline that connects us all.

In moments of crisis, when the lights go out and we find ourselves in the dark, lineworkers swiftly respond to restore power, offering reassurance in times of uncertainty. Whether repairing storm-ravaged power lines or ensuring continuity during emergencies, their unwavering commitment illuminates life when we need it most.

MJM lineworkers also answer the call beyond the boundaries of home. Our crews travel to fellow co-ops, near or far, when widespread outages occur and additional support is needed. Cooperation among cooperatives is one of our seven guiding principles, and no one embodies this core commitment better than lineworkers.



This month, as we celebrate the remarkable men and women who ensure reliable power, let's recognize their unwavering dedication to the local communities they serve. The next time you flip a switch, please take a moment to remember those who make it possible—lineworkers, who are wired for service and dedicated to illuminating life.



ALONGTHELINES

by MJM Electric Cooperative
www.mjmec.coop

**18300 SHIPMAN ROAD, PO Box 80
CARLINVILLE, IL 62626**

OFFICE: 1-217-707-6156

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

HOW TO REPORT AN OUTAGE:

Call **217-707-6156** or use your **SmartHub app**.

- When you report an outage, give your **name** and **location number**.
- Before calling, check your fuses or circuit breakers.
- Check with your neighbors. Call to report hazardous conditions.

Please do not report outages on Facebook/Social Media.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIRMAN: W. Kay Schultz..... District 1
VICE CHAIRMAN: Charles Huebener..... District 3
SECRETARY: Marcie Tonsor..... District 9
TREASURER: Todd Stewart..... District 8
 Robert Lehmann..... District 4
 Tyler Heyen..... District 6
 Dwayne Milner..... District 2
 James Niemann..... District 7
 Frank Welling..... District 5

STAFF

Joe Heyen.....President/CEO
 Brian Gunning.....Finance and Accounting Manager
 Jennifer Peterson.....Office Manager
 Matt Eisenmenger.....Operations Manager
 Bob Brandon.....Right of Way Manager
 Martin Hinton.....Engineering Manager

EDITOR

Eric Cooper.....Communications &
 Member Services Coordinator

MJM Along the Lines (USPS 854-620) is published monthly for \$4.75 per year, per member by MJM Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 80, Carlinville, Illinois 62626. Second-class postage paid at Carlinville, IL. POSTMASTER: Send Address changes to MJM Along the Lines, P.O. Box 80, Carlinville, IL 62626.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

IN THIS ISSUE

- 4-5 Updates from the MJM Office**
Retirement, Smarhub, Board Election, Accomplishments, & more.
- 6-9 2025 Demand Rate**
Information on the new rate structure beginning in May 2025.
- 10 Safe Digging Month**
Steps to take before you dig.
- 11 Tips of the Month**
Efficiency and Cybersecurity tips & work zone safety.

MEMBER TRADING POST

FOR SALE: Split Seasoned Fire Wood, pickup truck bed loads \$120 or call for delivery price: Call Leroy @ 618-972-4658

FOR SALE: John Deere 1010 tractor, totally refurbished. Call for details 618-535-5828

WANTED: Table saw, 3HP motor. Call 217-456-8001

FOR SALE: A 2015 Kia Sportage, red, 140k miles, \$7,500. A 2003 Chevy Tracker, 4-wheel drive, 176k miles, \$3,000. An 8ft Disc, heavy duty with wheels, \$1,700. A 72in, 3-point rotary tiller, like new, \$2,000. A 6ft Rhino Brush Hog, \$1,600. Like new (used two times) 4x6 Utility trailer, mesh floor, tailgate ramp, \$500. Call: 618-376-5121

FOR SALE: Eastlake Victorian Vintage - sofa/settee (\$350), Parlor marble tabletop (\$175), Green painted wood drop leaf table with six brass feet (\$185). All in excellent condition. Call for more details 217-710-5614

FOR SALE: A 16ft Square Hay Bale Conveyor, electric, like new. A Hay Trailer with a 20ft roller system. \$2,000 OBO. Dow area. Call 618-779-2078

To list your free ad, email info@mjmec.coop, call 217-707-6156, or mail the ad to MJM Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 80, Carlinville, IL 62626.

Each ad will run for one month. Some restriction may apply.

HAPPY RETIREMENT TO JOHN HALDER!



MJM President/CEO, Joe Heyen and retired Line Foreman, John Halder

In the month of February 2025, Line Foreman John Halder of the Piasa line crew, retired after 39 years of service at MJM Electric Cooperative. John began working at MJM in July of 1985 and became a Line Foreman in 2004.

We would all like to thank John for his many years of service and we wish him a very happy retirement!

BOARD LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



MJM follows the basic principle of Democratic Member control: one Member, one vote. Did you know that as a Member of our Co-op, you are eligible to run for a Board of Director position? The Board of Directors are your friends and neighbors. The decisions they make for your Cooperative affect their electric service the same as yours.

To know which Board of Director represents you, refer to the MJM bylaws booklet (Articles IV – Board of Directors; V – Meetings of Director; and VI – Officers, Misc.) available online at:

www.mjmec.coop/how-were-governed.

For more details on how to participate, you can contact the MJM office at 217-707-6156 or email us at info@mjmec.coop.

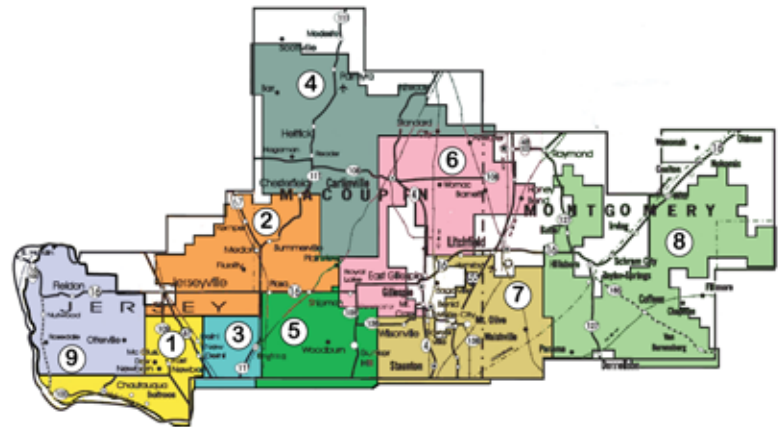
SMARTHUB BILL PAYMENTS MADE EASY

The easiest way to pay your bill is in the SmartHub App, although you can pay through SmartHub web, as well. Pay with debit/credit or E-check. It's fast, it's easy and the payment applies to your account immediately.

See your daily electric usage on SmartHub through the purple button on our website or through the SmartHub App. Why wait to see your bill and THEN make changes? See your daily use and make changes RIGHT AWAY to lower your next bill.

You can also report outages with the SmartHub app! To see all the features and how to set the app up:

www.mjmec.coop/smarthub-help



The deadline for 2025 Board Election Petitions is April 28th, 2025.

2025 Elections: Districts 1, 6, and 9

**SAVE THE DATE: 2025 ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 12th, 2025**



JEN PETERSON ACHIEVES MILESTONE IN NRECA'S NATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Across the U.S., numerous supervisors and management staff at electric cooperatives, public power districts and public utility districts are participating in the Supervisor and Manager Development Program from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).



MJM President/CEO, Joe Heyen & Office Manager, Jen Peterson

In 2024, Jen Peterson, Office Manager, was recognized for her commitment to professional development and leadership best practices by achieving the SMPD-20 level in the Supervisor and Manager Development Program (SMDP).

NRECA created the SMDP specifically for employees responsible for leading others. The SMDP is a tiered educational program in which participants earn recognition for every five credits of SMDP course work they successfully complete. Achieving the SMDP-20 level in the program requires active participation on 20 credits worth of SMDP course work. This course work focuses on strengthening the leadership skills, knowledge and abilities needed to hire, develop and lead others, manage performance, build teams, communicate effectively and make decisions.

The leadership skills, knowledge and abilities covered in the SMDP are based on the input from electric cooperative leaders across the nation. Only rural electric cooperative, public power and public utility district employees participate in the program, ensuring the program's focus and content is on leadership challenges unique to these organizations. Congratulations Jen!

NRECA represents more than 900 consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives, public power districts and public utility districts in the United States. These utilities provide electricity to approximately 42 million consumers in 47 states and sell approximately twelve percent of all electric energy sold in the United States. Located in Carlinville, Illinois, MJM Electric Cooperative provides electricity to rural areas in Macoupin, Jersey, and Montgomery counties as well as parts of Bond, Fayette, Greene, and Madison.

DO YOU RELY ON A MEDICAL DEVICE?

Let your utility know!



Safe Electricity.org®

MEDICAL ALERT MEMBERS HOW TO SET UP YOUR ACCOUNT FOR A MEDICAL ALERT STATUS

If you rely on medical devices that need electricity, like heart monitors, be ready for unexpected power outages. Ensure backup power is available and register with us for a medical alert status on your account.

Please supply in writing, on letterhead from your attending physician, as to what the medical condition(s) is and why you need to be noted as a "medical alert member." (**This will need updated annually.**)

A MEDICAL ALERT DOES MEAN:

This information is noted on the account and during outage situations MJM personnel will be alerted to your needs. Decisions made in the field do reflect this priority on an as needed basis. If possible, purchasing a generator for these types of situations is a great option.

A MEDICAL ALERT DOES NOT MEAN:

1. A Member is exempt from being disconnected for non-payment;
2. Uninterruptible electric service is guaranteed; or
3. Service will be first in the restoration process during an outage situation.

Call our office at 217-707-6156 and we can mail you the proper paperwork. Let's keep you safe and prepared!

2025 RATES & MORE ON DEMAND: NEW RATES TAKE EFFECT WITH YOUR MAY ELECTRIC USAGE

From the beginning of 2025, through this newsletter, our website, social media sites, and member meetings, we have been advising of an upcoming rate change that will introduce a new billing component for members. When you receive your June bill for May electric usage, it will look different from bills you have received in the past because it will include a demand component called "Power Supplier Demand." This new rate structure separates the costs for energy (kWh) and demand (kW).

You may be asking yourself why charge a demand rate and why is it being implemented now? Because electricity can't be stored in large quantities, the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity needs to have the capacity to meet the demand of all our members at any given moment. The demand charge on your bill reflects the cost of maintaining the level of service to meet the demand you need, when you need it.

MJM has almost 2,200 miles of line in service, which is a little more than the driving distance between St. Louis, MO and Seattle, WA! The density of meters throughout our territory served is four meters per mile of line. This results in a high fixed cost to provide safe and reliable services to members. MJM must build its system to not only provide for each individual members' peak load, but also for the collective peak system load. With the traditional blended rate, the impact of your demand was rolled up into a charge based on the power you use. This change will allow us to bill you more fairly for your impact on the electric system and the amount of power you consume.

Planning for peak demand is not unique to MJM and the electric industry. Many businesses address the issue of demand. For example, when designing a highway, it is not enough to know how many vehicles will travel the highway in a day. The designing engineer must also know the maximum number of vehicles that may attempt to use the highway at the same time. This will determine if a two- or four-lane highway should be built to meet the traffic demand.

These increases will collect more of our distribution system costs from the fixed-cost component rather than the variable energy component. Going forward, an estimated 78% of the fixed costs of doing business will

now be collected through the service delivery charge and power supplier demand charges. You have always been able to save money by turning off lights or adjusting your thermostat. Beginning in May 2025, you'll be able to lower your bill by simply staggering the use of appliances.

WHAT IS DEMAND?

Simply put, energy is the amount of power you consume, while demand measures your impact on the grid to deliver that power. For example, think about your vehicle. Energy (kWh) would be what is recorded on the odometer - a measurement of total miles. Demand is like your speedometer - measuring the speed at which energy flows. The upcoming demand charge will be similar your highest recorded "miles-per-hour." MJM must build and maintain the electric system so we can make sure you can "drive" as fast as you'd like at any time.

HOW IS MY DEMAND DETERMINED?

Although there hasn't been a charge associated with demand, we've been showing your demand reading on your bill for years. It represents the 15-minute interval with the highest energy consumption during the billing period, measured in kilowatts (kW). When Rates change on May 1st, you will be billed a per kW rate multiplied by the total kW of that highest interval. **The demand charge will vary by rate class.**

Current Bill Information		
Balance Remaining Prior to This Billing		\$0.00
Power Supplier Energy	1,159 kWh @ 0.08663	\$100.40
Distribution Energy	1,159 kWh @ 0.02497	\$28.94
Service Delivery Charge		\$54.00
Power Supplier Demand	6.33 kW @ 0.00	\$0.00
IL Public Utility Tax		\$3.71
Operation Round Up Donation		\$0.95
New Bill Amount		\$188.00

While this is a rate structure change, MJM members have already been paying for demand within the energy costs. This change will ensure that each member is paying for their individual demand. This is a fairer way of billing members as it is the actual demand amount. Check out our rate calculator online or contact our Billing Department if you have questions.

2025 Rates: mjmec.coop/mjm-electric-rates

ITEMS ON MONTHLY BILLING

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT CHARGES LINKED TO?



ENERGY GENERATION & TRANSMISSION

POWER SUPPLIER = WABASH VALLEY POWER ALLIANCE

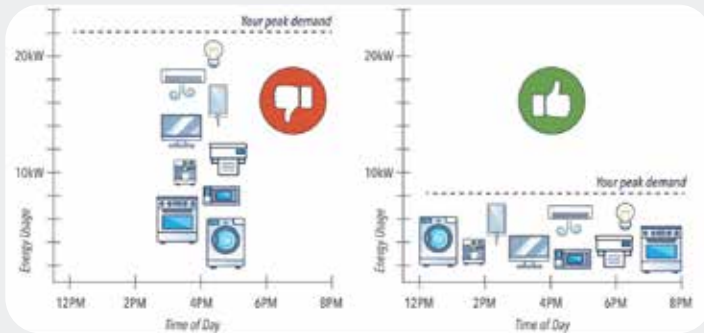


ON YOUR BILL:

- **Power Supplier Energy (kWh)**
- **Distribution Energy (kWh)**

These charges are based on what the appliances and other devices that require power at your location consumed during the month, measured in Killowatt Hours (kWh). The current month's bill is based on last month's usage totals.

(Example: April Billing = March Usage)



Using multiple appliances at the same time can cause your personal demand to spike. The new Power Supplier Demand rate will take effect May 2025 (June Billing).

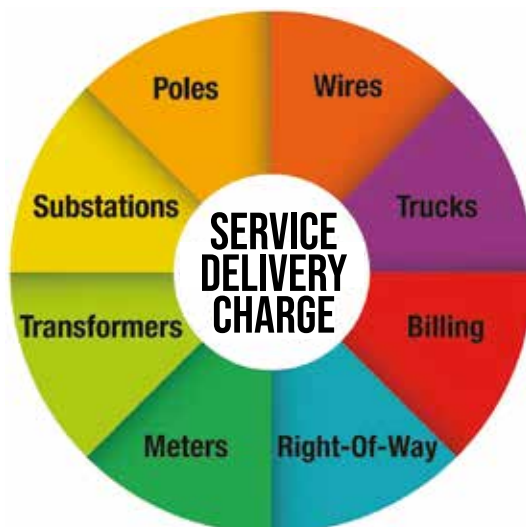
2025 Rates: mjmec.coop/mjm-electric-rates

• **Power Supplier Demand (kW)**

With advancements in metering, MJM can more precisely determine how individual households use energy and their impact on the utility system. MJM's Power Supplier Demand rate partially unbundles the "Power Supplier Energy" and "Distribution Energy" charges into a lower charge for the energy you consume.

Power Supplier Demand is based upon the total maximum power you needed at a single point—or the demand you placed on the system. This ensures that the costs to operate and maintain the system are allocated more fairly among all members.

• **Service Delivery Charge**



As a **MEMBER** of an electric distribution cooperative, you live in a rural region that Investor-Owned companies did not wish to provide service to. Electric Cooperative were formed by rural neighbors that developed a member-owned and operated utility service that would provide electricity to their region. A cooperative is fully funded by its members rather than outside investors, sharing costs of the products, services, employees, equipment, materials, and operations.

The **Service Delivery Charge** is a fixed or base cost shared across the membership that covers providing and maintaining the equipment used to ensure electricity is available at your location. This cost remains the same each month and is not based on energy consumption.

MORE ABOUT DEMAND

COFFEE WITH THE CO-OP EVENTS PRESENTATION REVIEW

BACKGROUND

- Inflation Data Timeframe: 2014 - 2024
- Last major MJM Rate restructure: 2017
- Cumulative rate of inflation since 2014 is 66.08%
- Maintaining system reliability is a priority

ITEM	2014 PRICE	2024 PRICE	% DIFFERENCE
#2 ACSR Wire	\$1.29/lbs	\$3.42/lbs	165% increase
Class 5 Pole	\$179	\$355	98% increase
25kVa Transformer	\$859	\$1,550	80% increase
Digger Truck	\$239,000	\$370,000	55% increase
Bucket Truck	\$201,625	\$310,000	54% increase



WHAT FACTORS IMPACT RATES?

AT WABASH VALLEY POWER ALLIANCE - Our Power Provider
ENERGY: The actual electrons cost, market values
GENERATION: Power Plants & Debt
TRANSMISSION: From Power Plant to Substations costs

AT MJM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

DISTRIBUTION: Substations, Transformers, Wire costs
FIXED/BASE COSTS: Employees, Buildings, Equipment costs

ADDITIONAL IMPACTS ON COSTS AND RATES

- Weather Events (Storm Damage, Extreme Cold or Heat)
- Equipment issues and maintenance
- Rate Changes - National and Regional level
- Inflation
- Change in Lifestyle and Equipment/Appliances (residential)

WHAT IS A COST-OF-SERVICE STUDY?

- Analyzes the costs involved in providing electricity, with a focus on MJM's distribution system.
- Organized by Billing Rate Class
- Determines which, if any, rate classes are over-collecting or under-collecting.

Rate studies will continue to be conducted every 2-3 years: Rate analysis and cost of service studies.

WHY CHARGE FOR DEMAND?

- In 2025, MJM will require \$9.5 million for the distribution side of the business, to provide reliable electricity to all members. We're currently collecting 65% of that (\$5.7 million) with our "Service Delivery Charge." The rest is collected via the variable kWh charge. With our new billing structure, we will collect 78% (\$7.4 million) between the base charge and new demand component. This moves the Co-op closer to the goal of getting to 100% fixed-cost recovery through non-kWh sales.
- More equitably distributes costs based on each member's impact on the distribution system.
- MJM must build our distribution system to handle each member's demand, even if the peaks only occur a few times.
- The variable costs like kWh rates should see less fluctuation with fixed cost components in place like Power Supplier Demand.
- According to the 2024 cost-of-service study, adding a Demand charge was found to be less of an increase than increasing the service delivery charge or the energy charge.

SINGLE-PHASE COMPARISON

Low electric use and high demand members could see an increase. High electric use and low demand members could see a decrease.

The average residential member will see a very minimal change. However, no two members consume energy in the same way. Factors like Electric Heat vs gas or propane heat and efficiency of appliances will determine the true impact of individual's results. Please note: Due to the newly negotiated lower "Power Supplier Energy" rates within this new rate structure, the "Electric Heat Discount" has been discontinued.

HOW TO SAVE ON THE DEMAND RATE

Demand is affected by how many different items are consuming power at the same time. We like to illustrate it with stacking appliances (pg.7).

Think about doing laundry, cooking with the oven, and running the dishwasher all at the same time. Add the electric consumption of all those appliances together and that is your total demand. Now, if you cook your dinner, then run the dishwasher and start the laundry afterwards, you've effectively lowered your demand.

Staggering the use of major appliances is the easiest way to manage your demand charges. When you consistently stagger the use of major appliances so they don't run at the same time, you can keep your demand low. Make it easier by utilizing technology that helps you remember to offset energy use like timers, delay start settings, mobile apps, and programmable thermostats.

SINGLE-PHASE RATE CLASSES (1,2,3,4,5,31,32,33,37,38, & 39)

Increase/New ■ Decrease ■ Same

2024 Rates

Service Delivery Charge	\$54.00/mo.
Power Supplier Energy	\$0.08663/kWh
Distribution Energy Charge	\$0.02497/kWh
Power Supplier Demand	\$0.00/kW

2025 Rates

Service Delivery Charge	\$54.00/mo.
Power Supplier Energy	Between 1 - 1,100 kWh Over 1,100kWh
	\$0.07723/kWh \$0.06783/kWh
Distribution Energy Charge	\$0.02497/kWh
Power Supplier Demand	\$2.25/kW

POWER SUPPLIER DEMAND (kW) Bill Comparison - Rate 1 Single-Phase



2024 (current rates)



Usage = 610 kWh
Demand = 5.12 kW @ \$0
Service Delivery = \$54
Bill Amount = \$124.03

2025 (May 2025)

Usage = 610 kWh
Demand = 5.12 kW @ \$2.25/kW
Service Delivery = \$54
Bill Amount = \$129.60
Increase of \$5.57 this month



Usage = 1,466 kWh
Demand = 8.43kW @ \$0
Service Delivery = \$54
Bill Amount = \$222.30

Usage = 1,466 kWh
Demand = 8.43kW @ \$2.25/kW
Service Delivery = \$54
Bill Amount = \$223.41
Increase of \$1.11 this month



Usage = 2,587kWh
Demand = 11.69kW @ \$0
Service Delivery = \$54
Bill Amount = \$350.98

Usage = 2,587kWh
Demand = 11.69kW @ \$2.25/kW
Service Delivery = \$54
Bill Amount = \$337.58
Decrease of \$13.41 this month



SUMMER DEMAND

- Air conditioning
- Pool pumps or fountains
- Hot tubs
- Irrigation motors
- Power tools, compressors



WINTER DEMAND

- Electric heat or portable space heaters
- Electric fireplaces
- Stock tank or engine block heaters
- Drain gutter tapes
- Holiday cooking and Christmas lighting

SAFE DIGGING MONTH

BY SAFELECTRICITY.ORG

Digging without knowing what is below the dirt could cause serious injury or a power outage. Underground utility lines could be anywhere, and they also shift over time. Every project, big or small, requires advance notification to 811. To start the underground utility marking process, call 811 or go to your state's own 811 center website. Having underground lines marked is free and easy to do; simply call 811 at least two full business days prior to starting a digging project.

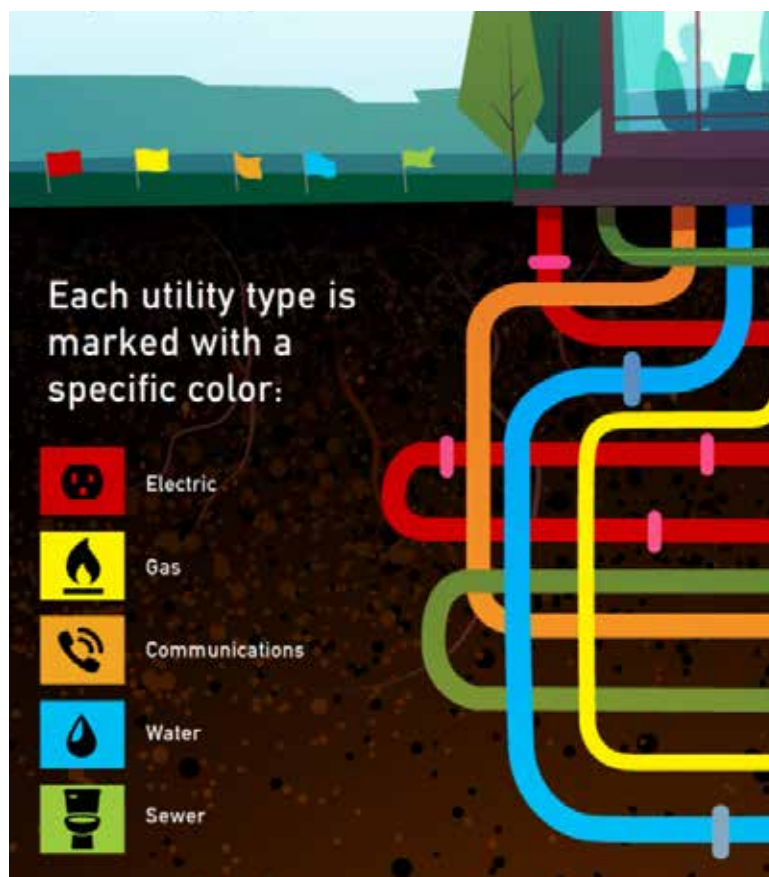
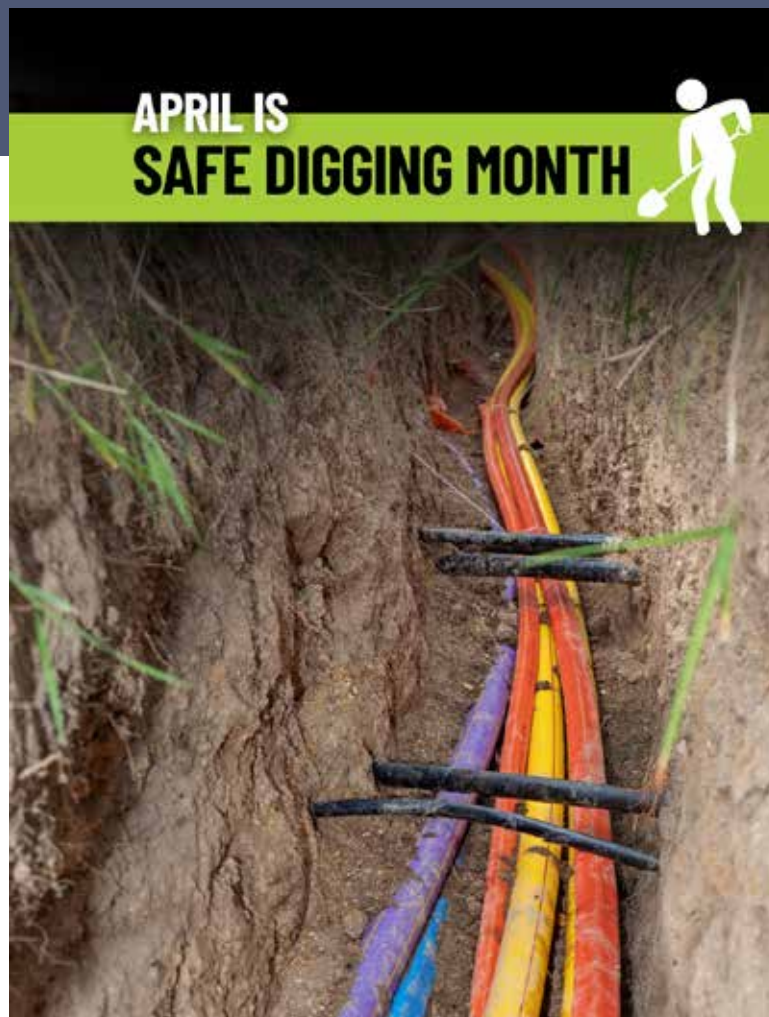
After submitting a request, underground lines will be marked by their respective utilities; however, locators do not mark private lines such as service to outbuildings, underground sprinkler systems or a gas line to a grill, for example. Private lines are the responsibility of the homeowner.

If you are only digging in a small area of your yard, you can outline the area in white spray paint or with white flags to ensure that only that part of your yard will be located and marked. (White flags are available at home improvement stores.)

THERE ARE FIVE STEPS TO SAFER DIGGING:

1. Pre-mark the proposed dig area with white paint or flags.
2. Call 811 or go online to submit your locate request before you dig. There is no charge for the service.
3. Wait the required amount of time (typically two business days).
4. Respect the marks and do not move any flags.
5. Dig with care. Avoid digging on top of or within 18–24 inches on all sides of utility marks, which may mean moving your digging project to another part of your yard.

For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org. For more information about 811, visit www.call811.com



TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Don't fall for a power restoration rip off. Some scammers will offer to restore power quickly or in a preferential order if you make an immediate payment. These scams typically occur after major storms or disasters that cause widespread outages. We will never request or require payment to restore power after a natural disaster or storm.

Source: Utilities United Against Scams



WHEN APPROACHING A WORK ZONE

DO THESE 3 THINGS:

1. **Slow down**
2. **Move over**
3. **Proceed with caution**

 Safe
Electricity.org



Electric utility vehicles and workers often share streets and roadways with motorists in order to access overhead power lines and other electrical equipment. This can be dangerous for workers and motorists. Safe Electricity urges you to go slowly and be especially careful when you see crews at work. Typically, hundreds of workers are killed on road work zones each year. Fatal work zone crashes occur most often in the summer and fall. More than twice as many work zone crashes happen on weekdays compared to weekends, so be extra cautious driving to and from work.

To help prevent fatalities and injuries this year, remember these guidelines while driving:

- **Slow down, move over and proceed with caution in a work zone.**
- **Keep a safe distance between your vehicle and traffic barriers, trucks, construction equipment and workers.**
- **Be patient: Traffic delays are sometimes unavoidable, so try to allow time for unexpected delays in your schedule.**
- **Obey all signs and road crew flag instructions.**
- **Merge early and be courteous to other drivers.**
- **Use your headlights at dusk and during inclement weather.**
- **Minimize distractions: Avoid changing the radio station, using a cell phone, eating while driving or other distractions.**

The most common crash in a roadway work zone is the rear-end collision, so remember to leave at least four car lengths of braking distance between you and the car in front of you.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Turn your suds into savings. Lower your energy use in the laundry room by washing clothes with cold water whenever possible, as heating water accounts for most of the energy used in a laundry cycle. Wash full loads to make the most of energy savings, and use high-efficiency detergent designed for cold washes. For drying cycles, clean the lint filter before each load to improve airflow and use dryer balls to reduce drying time.



REMEMBERING BOB LEHMANN

Robert E. "Bob" Lehmann, 81, of Girard, IL, passed away peacefully at his home on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, surrounded by his loved ones.

A lifelong farmer in the Girard and Carlinville area, Bob was also a Pioneer Seed dealer, building strong relationships with fellow farmers and supporting local agriculture. Beyond his work in farming, he was deeply committed to serving his community. Bob dedicated 38 years to the MJM Electric Cooperative Board as the Director of District 4. He also served as board president for many years at MJM and achieved NRECA Certified Director Gold. He was a valued member of the Wabash Valley Power Alliance Board for 20 years. Additionally, he was a longtime member and president of the Girard School Board. His commitment to service left a lasting impact on the community he loved.

Obituary credit: Davis-Anderson Funeral Home