



Bill Credits and Ice Cream and Face Painting! Oh, my!

It is hard to believe it was nearly four months ago when MJM celebrated their 80th Annual Meeting “Back in Time – It’s 1939” with the Wizard of Oz theme. Annual Meetings are extremely important for MJM Members to attend to voice their opinions, be in the know of MJM Co-op’s news and casting their vote on specific topics. Life gets busy and sometimes Members don’t have a Saturday to give up. We get that. That is why we are bringing an ice cream social to you!

On Thursday, August 8th, MJM will be hosting an ice cream social at the MJM Piasa warehouse (700 Route 16) at 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Bob Heyen, an MJM retiree, will be serving soft serve ice cream. There will also be a build your own sundae bar. During Dorchester’s Homecoming celebration, Heyen’s ice cream is very popular with all attendees. MJM will also have two indoor bounce houses and facing painting for children.

On Thursday, August 15th, you can find us at the K.C. Hall in Hillsboro (11198 IL-185) at 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Ice cream is going to be catered by Sweet Addictions from Hillsboro. Sweet Addictions was created for families by a local family. They enjoy watching families come together and indulge in their homemade ice cream treats. Sweet Addictions will be serving soft serve ice cream, along with a sundae bar to decorate it how you like it! We will have children’s activities at this event, too! During our Annual Meeting, Tim the Twister and Sunshyne the Clown entertained children while Members attended the meeting. MJM has invited them back to make balloon animals and paint faces.


Aside from free ice cream and activities for children, why else should you come? MJM will be presenting very valuable information to keep all Members in the know. Each department will have individual booths set up so that Members can visit to be more knowledgeable on billing options, scholarships, rebates, solar, and receive SmartHub help, learn about Operation Round UP – the MJM Cares Program and so much more!



By attending our ice cream social, each Member will receive a \$5 bill credit and an 80th Anniversary car coaster. There will also be an opportunity to earn more credit towards your account. Come visit us to find out how! Since there are two separate ice cream socials, we will have a drawing at each social for a grand prize winner. The grand prize winner will receive an \$80 bill credit!! See you soon!



MJM Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

264 N. East St., Carlinville, IL 62626

Office 1-800-648-4729

Pay by Phone 1-855-313-6314

Office Hours

Mon-Fri 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.



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Brooke Gross.....Communications

and Member Services Coordinator

Holidays observed

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

How to report an outage

Call 1-800-648-4729. Collect calls will be accepted to report outages. 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.

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Member Trading Post

FOR SALE: Grizzly G400 Bench Lathe. Serial #1222 03/97 with standard equipment extras. 1- 1/2" 5pc carbide tool set. 1 3/8" 5 pc carbide tool set. 4- 5 carbide tool set. 1- Dial indicator with magnetic base. Asking \$400. Also selling an air gust 5 ton AC unit with 100,000 propane furnace. Asking \$500. Please call 618-278-4404 or 618-550-1503.

FOR SALE: 2- 300gl fuel tanks with stands. Asking \$200.00 each. Call 217-473-6283.

FOR SALE: 67" Stearns & Foster Hide-a-bed Sofa. 2 1940's Frosted Glass Sliding Door metal

cabinets, complete and good condition, perfect for a loft. 1950's Chromecraft Gray Formica drop-leaf table, 30X50 1/2. Make an offer. Call or text 618-580-7413.

FOR SALE: Short arm quilting machine. Quilts baby to king size quilts Asking \$1,500. Dwarf citrus trees – lime, lemon, orange and tangerine. These trees have blooms and fruits on them now. I have no room for them come winter. Must sell and asking \$75 for all four. Short bed liner for a 2004 Dodge Dakota, SLT, 4 wheel drive, extended cab. Asking \$60. Please call 217-408-6479 if interested.

To list your free ad, email brookeg@mjmec.coop, call 1-800-648-4729, or mail the ad to MJM Electric Cooperative, 264 N. East St., P.O. Box 80, Carlinville, IL 62626. Each ad will run for one month. Some restriction may apply. Thank you.

MJM vs. Mother Nature

MJM has had to do several planned outages due to the Illinois flood waters. Approximately 80+ accounts have been without power since March 21st. We must maintain certain clearances between water levels and our conductors and transformers. As waters rose, the risk of a contact from boaters trying to assist evacuation efforts also became a danger. These outages are in the western part of MJM's territory where our Nutwood substation serves.

Our prayers and thoughts go out to those who have been affected by the devastating flood waters. We share the frustration that our Members are experiencing during these difficult times. Safety has been MJM's biggest concern and it is nearly impossible to get to many of these locations due to the high water and road conditions. Please have patience with us during these challenging times.



► A beautiful sunset over a body of water that would not normally exist. This is where the Nutwood levee was breached, and fields were flooded.

Summer Fun and Frisbees



On Tuesday, July 9th, MJM Electric participated in the annual Jersey County Fair Parade. This year the county celebrated 150 years of community involvement, carnivals and summertime fun! MJM showed off a bucket truck driven by Journeyman Lineman Jared Stanton. Communication and Member Services Coordinator Brooke Gross headed up the parade, along with her husband Caleb, McKenzie Stanton, Chelsea Ross and Emma Abbott. They walked in the parade passing out fans and frisbees to families. Although it was a hot day, those in the parade enjoyed themselves and interacting with the audience. MJM will be in the Old Settler's Parade on August 8th, in Hillsboro, and the Carlinville Rotary Sponsored Halloween parade in late October. Be on the lookout!



BILLS WILL ARRIVE LATE IN SEPTEMBER

ELIMINATE SNAIL MAIL DELAYS AND SIGN-UP FOR ELECTRONIC STATEMENTS TODAY!

Like most businesses in America, MJM will be closed on Monday, September 2nd, in observance of Labor Day. The office will resume normal business hours on Tuesday, September 3rd, from 7:30am to 4:30pm. Due to the office being closed on Labor Day, the delivery of your monthly billing statement will be delayed. The billing process is most often completed on the first of the month, unless it falls on a Sunday or an observed holiday. In this case, September 1st is on a Sunday and Labor Day is September 2nd. This means the billing process will take place Tuesday, September 3rd.

If you currently receive your bill by snail mail, it will arrive a few days later than normal. If you'd like to have access to your bill amount as soon as it is available on September 4th, please download our free **SmartHub app** or access your statement on our website at www.mjmec.coop. You may also click on the icon called "Quick Pay" which allows you to access your bill amount by entering your MJM account number and last name (or company name) on your Membership. Please note, the due date will remain as September 15th; however, we do allow a 5-business day grace period before late penalties are applied.

Dormitory 101:

Make Room for Safety

The car is loaded up and check-in is about to start on college campuses across the country. While you want to have all the comforts of home at school, there are some **electrical safety tips to keep in mind** as you set up your new space.

- **Do not** overload outlets, extension cords, or power strips.
- Use power strips with **overcurrent protectors**. This will shut off the power if there is too much power being drawn.
- Only purchase and use electrical products tested for safety. Some commonly **approved safety labels** include **UL, CSA, and MET**.
- **Unplug small appliances** when not in use and all electronics when away for extended periods.
- Keep all electrical appliances and **cords safely away from bedding, curtains, papers, and other flammable material.**

Check with your **university's housing department** on specific housing rules before planning to bring hot plates, coffee makers, toasters, microwaves, and portable heaters.

For more information on dorm safety, visit:

Safe
Electricity.org



Energy Efficiency

and your



Swimming pools are great for cooling off on a hot day. However, the price of maintaining a pool can get be higher than the summer temperatures. The Energy Education Council recommends the following tips to keep your pool as efficient as possible:

- Use the smallest pump possible. Run it after you add chemicals, and then turn it off.
- Rely on chemicals, cleaning, and pool covers to keep the pool clear of algae and debris, not constant pumping. If debris is still a problem, put the pump on a timer and run it for brief periods of time throughout the day.

A pool cover can save 50 to 70 percent of the costs of heating a pool, according to EnergySavers.gov. Pool covers conserve water, and they also reduce debris and the chemicals that pools need. Although covers reduce heat lost through evaporation, they also decrease the sun's ability to warm pool water. A transparent or bubble cover allows the sun to heat the water better. Your pool heating needs should be a consideration in your choice and use of pool covers.

If you choose to heat your pool, know your heating options and pick the heater that best suits your needs:

- Gas heaters are good for quickly heating pools and efficient when you need the pool heated irregularly. Gas heaters are the most popular heater. They can heat a pool regardless of external factors.
- Solar heaters use the sun's energy to warm water. They are more expensive than other types of heaters; however, they have low annual costs and will pay for themselves over time.

Heat pumps warm water through electricity. They do not generate heat; they capture it and transfer it to water. Upfront costs for heat pumps are higher than gas heaters, but annual costs are lower. Heat pumps also save money in the long run because they last longer than gas heaters.

With some simple considerations, you can enjoy summer fun and energy efficiency.





Important Notice: As a Member, YOU get the credit!!

MJM Refunds \$453,400 in Capital Credits

What are Capital Credits?

Because MJM Electric is a Cooperative, owned by its Members, it does not technically earn profits as an investor-owned utility would. Instead, Capital Credits are the retained “margins” leftover at the end of a year – basically the difference between operating costs, or the cost of doing business, and the total amount of money collected. This capital allows MJM to finance operations and construction. To be clear, MJM is a not-for-profit organization.

How are margins allocated?

Margins are allocated back to Members as Capital Credits and are calculated by MJM for everyone who purchased electricity during a year in which the Cooperative had positive margins. The amount of Capital Credits earned in a given year is based upon the amount of capital each Member contributed to the Cooperative through payment of their monthly bills. The sum of the Member’s monthly bills for that year is multiplied by a percentage to determine the Member’s Capital Credit allocation. The percentage of allocated Capital Credits varies from year to year depending upon the Cooperative’s margin. Member purchases may also be called patronage.

When and how will I receive my refund?

Members who had active Membership during 1981-1982 and are currently receiving electric service from the Cooperative during the month of August 2019, will receive a bill credit on their primary account with their September 2019 billing statement. A check *will not be issued* this year, as the Cooperative is looking for different ways to cut down on costs. This bill credit will be identified as a “**Capital Credit Refund**” on the billing statement. However, active Members who are heirs of an estate and due a refund, *will be issued* a check for this Capital Credit portion. Checks will be mailed out in September.

Members who had Membership during 1981-1982 and are not currently receiving electric service from the Cooperative will receive a written check which will be mailed out in September to the last known address on file. If we do not have a confirmed address and/or required documentation, your refund will be in an “unclaimed” status until we hear from you. All unclaimed money will be held for a period of two years, before being reabsorbed by the Cooperative as donated capital.

"MJM Electric is a
Cooperative, owned
by its Members."

What years are being refunded now?

The current action by the Board is to retire/refund Capital Credits to Members who purchased electricity from the Cooperative during 1981-1982.

If I did not receive electric service from MJM from 1981-1982 will I get any refund? No. Capital Credits retirement/refunds will only be made to Members for 1981-1982. However, it is still very important to keep your address, telephone numbers and personal information updated with the Cooperative so we can locate you should your years be retired/refunded.

Are Capital Credits refunded every year?

Each year, the MJM Board of Directors decide on whether to retire/refund Capital Credits based on the financial health of the Cooperative. We cannot retire all Capital Credits at once, because we still have preventive maintenance measures that need to be addressed to ensure Members continue receiving reliable, affordable service and to operate the company. The Board will evaluate this on an annual basis and retire/refund Capital Credits when feasible.

What happens to the years that are not retired/refunded? Do I lose my Capital Credits?

The unretired capital credit amount will remain on permanent record with the Cooperative until designated by the Cooperative's Board and will be distributed to the Members as governed by the Cooperative's Bylaws. Each Member has a designated Capital Credit/Member number for the Cooperative to use to keep track of them.

What do I need to do to receive the retirement/refund?

Current/Active Member: If you are a current/active Member purchasing electricity from MJM during the month of August 2019 you do not need to take any action. The refund will appear on your September bill.

Previous/Inactive Member: If you no longer purchase electric from MJM, you will need to contact the Cooperative to make sure we have your current information and mailing address. Contact us at www.mjmec.coop or call 1-800-678-2679 or 217-707-6156. Otherwise, the check will be sent to the last known address on file.

What happens to the Capital Credits of a Member who is deceased, and ownership is now within an estate?

The Capital Credits of a deceased Member can be paid to the heirs of the estate. Please call the Cooperative and speak to a Member of the Capital Credit Team or **visit our website for the appropriate forms.**
www.mjmec.coop

Why does my Cooperative refund Capital Credits?

Doing so follows one of our seven Cooperative principles—Members' Economic Participation. This principle states: "Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their Cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the Cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the Cooperative; setting up reserves; benefiting Members in proportion to their transactions with the Cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the Membership."



See you at the Farm Progress Show!

The nation's largest outdoor farm event will be held at Progress City in Decatur August 27-29. Look for the Illinois Touchstone Energy® Cooperative's booth at its new location on Lot 217 on Second Street between Central Progress and East Progress Avenue, near Gates 7 and 8. You'll find us next to the new Grain System Inc. display.

A representative from MJM Electric and several other Illinois Electric Cooperatives will be on hand to share information about Cooperatives, safety, energy efficiency, and much more.

Be sure to catch a Live Line Safety Demo, sponsored by Corn Belt Energy Corporation, where you'll learn from a safety expert about electricity and how to stay safe around electrical equipment. You can also see a pole climbing demonstration. Stop by the booth to charge your phone at one of our charging stations. While you're there, play a game for a chance to win a prize.

Weather permitting, the Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon will be flying the American flag each morning of the show. Plans are for the balloon to also fly late afternoon on the first two days of the show.

For 66 years, The Farm Progress Show has celebrated agriculture by bringing tradition and business together. It is where people from all over gather to meet, observe, and learn. Major manufacturers roll out their newest offerings, and agricultural families take a break from their daily routines to immerse themselves in the wider ag community. The show rotates annually between Decatur, Illinois and Boone, Iowa.

Check out Prairie Farmer Magazine or visit farmprogressshow.com to learn more about the 2019 Farm Progress Show.