



MJM
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

ALONG THE LINES

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www.mjmec.coop

Operation Round Up to Begin 2021

As we approach the holiday season, the gift of giving is something that is always recognized during this time of year. While 2020 has been a unique year due to the pandemic, I think we are all thankful to see 2020 coming to an end and hopes for a brighter 2021! I know MJM is ready to begin 2021 on a positive note and proceed with Operation Round Up that has been placed on hold for many months now.

The MJM Membership unanimously voted to launch Operation Round Up at the March 7th, 2020 annual meeting. As part of the cooperative business model, one of our core principles is *Concern for Community*. While our priority is always to provide safe, reliable, and affordable energy, we view our role in the community as a catalyst for good. Operation Round Up has been publicized informing the Membership about the program and how Cooperatives can work for the development of their communities by putting their pennies together for charitable purposes by rounding up Members' bills to the nearest whole dollar each month. It's important to know just what an impact you have through your co-op in ways you may not even realize.

Electric Co-ops that offer Operation Round Up, or a similar program, say it has reaped rewards for their communities. The donation averages \$6.00 per year per account. If we take MJM's current 7748 Memberships and assume 50% of the Members might participate, that is \$23,244 annually or \$5,811 quarterly that could be shared amongst your communities for worthwhile purposes. That is HUGE!

With a program such as Operation Round Up, donations on a larger scale can be made depending on the success of the program. There is an opportunity to get matching funds through CoBank, a national cooperative bank, which provides not-for-profit grants called "Sharing Success". Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative (RECC), our neighboring electric co-op headquartered in Auburn, recently participated in this program and raised \$10,000 which was matched for a total of \$20,000 and contributed towards deserving charities. Donations were made to local food pantries in Taylorville, Virden and Loami. An additional grant was awarded to Refuge Ranch in Rochester. The 2020 recipients were very thankful for the donations and emphasized how difficult the pandemic has been on their fund-raising efforts.

MJM's program will begin with the billing statement you will receive in February 2021 for January's usage. If an MJM Member chooses to not participate in Operation Round Up, then they may opt out. In order to opt out, you may call 217-707-6032 or email roundup@mjmec.coop at any time during this program. If you call to opt out, you will reach a voicemail to leave your information. In the next three newsletters you can fill out the opt out form included and mail it to: MJM Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 80, Carlinville, IL 62626. You may find the first form on the top of page 7. With each form of contact, please include the name on the account, your account number(s), and a current phone number we can reach you at in case we have questions while removing your account from the program. If you have more than one account, and do not wish for all the accounts to be enrolled, you can pick and choose which account(s) you want opted out. ***This is an opt out program, so you do not need to do anything if you wish to participate!*** Once the program begins, you still have the opportunity to opt back in or out at any time.

Covid-19 has affected all communities greatly in one way or the other. Having empathy for others allows us to recognize that pooling our resources can go a long way towards helping people and organizations in need. Before you opt out, please think of YOUR community and how just pennies a month can make a difference. Regardless, we thank YOU for voting 'yes' at the 2020 annual meeting last March which gives YOUR co-op this opportunity to assist in serving YOUR communities. YOU empower MJM through YOUR Membership and participation in and support of programs such as these. 🌈





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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 217-707-6156. When you report
an outage, give your name and loca-
tion 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.

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Office Closings



The MJM office will be closed Wednesday,
November 11, in honor of Veteran's Day. Take the
time to thank a veteran for their service and the
freedom we enjoy because of it.



The MJM office will be closed Thursday, November
26, and Friday, November 27, to celebrate
Thanksgiving. MJM's directors and employees
wish all of our Members a blessed Thanksgiving
and are thankful for the opportunity to serve.



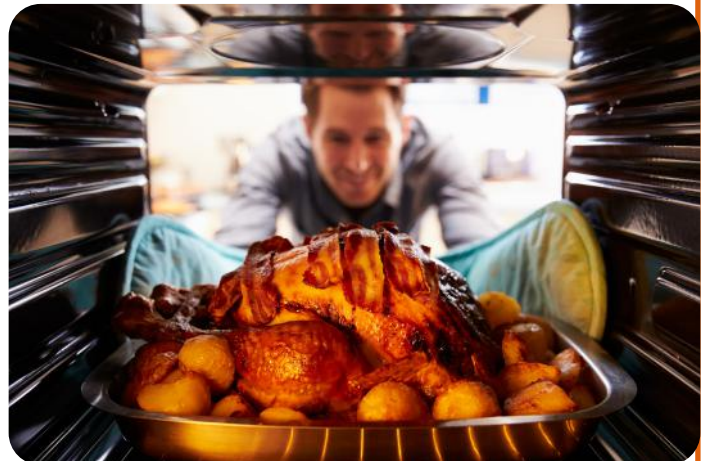
Cooking Up Energy Savings!

Cooking can be a great area in which to save energy. The Energy Education Council recommends keeping these energy efficient tips in mind while preparing your holiday meals this year:

- Think small—opt for a smaller appliance, such as a toaster oven or microwave, whenever possible. They have smaller spaces to heat, so they require less energy.
- Turn the oven or stove burners off a few minutes before your food is ready. They will remain hot enough to finish cooking the food.
- Don't preheat the oven unless a recipe requires it.
- Self-cleaning ovens use less energy for normal cooking because of the higher insulation levels built into them. If you own one, plan to clean it right after you have finished baking something so it does not have to heat up a second time.
- Don't peek. Opening the oven door lower the internal temperature and requires more energy to reheat.
- Don't cover oven racks with foil. This reduces heat flow and increases cooking time.
- Make sure your pan covers the coil of your range. If you can see coil peeping out from the sides of your pan, you need a bigger pan (or a smaller burner).
- Put a lid on it. Cover pans while cooking to prevent heat loss.
- Plan ahead. Defrosting food in the microwave may be convenient, but it costs nothing more to defrost in the refrigerator.

These steps are easy to follow and come at no extra cost. Making a habit out of them will save you both energy in the kitchen and money on your energy bill. 

By Safe Electricity



New Carlinville Headquarters a True Blessing

With the relocation of our headquarters, we continue to experience the advantages of having the new facility, especially with the pandemic occurring at the same time. We knew the facility would be a blessing but to what extent was really unknown.

The board has yet to use their new board room due to the need of social distancing. Instead, the multi-purpose room has hosted the board meetings, while the board room has become the meeting place for 6 or less employees. The multi-purpose room has fulfilled its purpose of allowing the MJM employees to continue to meet and hold all employee meetings and still stay safe doing so.

Annually, the linemen are required to participate in a training called Pole Top Rescue or "Hurt Man" exercise. In this training, linemen work with a rescue mannequin who has hurt itself while working on the top of a utility pole. Linemen are then instructed and practice to lower the rescue mannequin to the ground to safety.

This training has always occurred in conjunction with its in house employee safety meetings at the headquarters office. Afterwards the linemen are required to travel to an offsite location, the Womac substation, where the practice utility pole was stationed since there was no space to do it at the old headquarters. With the added acreage at the new headquarters, the linemen are now able to stay in one location to continue with their training. This training was recently held on September 3 with Director Jim Niemann in attendance.



The new facility has helped us improve operations through efficiency and meet our goal of providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity to achieve a higher level of service for the Membership. 

Stay Safe This Holiday Season

Gathering with family and friends during the holidays often means making great memories, reliving traditions, and sharing the spirit of the season. However, amid all the festivities, don't forget about safety. Safe Electricity shares tips to help ensure that your holiday season—whether decorating, feasting, or traveling — remains a safe one.

Keep safety in mind when decorating the home. Ensure that your tree is placed at least 3 feet away from heat sources such as fireplaces or radiators and on a stable platform. Before hanging holiday lights, check for worn spots, fraying, and excessive kinking. Damaged strands of lights should not be used. Consider investing in LED light strands. Although they are more expensive than traditional incandescent bulbs, LED lights last much longer and are also more efficient and durable.

Don't get burned in the kitchen. Clean your stovetop and oven often, especially before the large amount of baking and cooking that takes place for family gatherings. Doing so will help prevent fires in the kitchen, should a malfunction or accident in the kitchen take place. Do not leave combustible items, such as towels or pot holders, near the stove top. Keep all appliance cords away from heat. Never use appliances near the kitchen sink. Plug appliances into ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets. Unplug your appliances when they are not in use.



Whether you are leaving the home for a few hours or for a few weeks, turn off all lights when they are not in use. Your neighbors can still enjoy your exterior Christmas lights while you are away if you put them on an automatic timer. This will remove the extra worry of an electrical accident while also reducing energy costs. If you will be gone for an extended holiday trip, you can reduce the risk of a power surge damaging equipment by unplugging unneeded electrical devices before leaving. 🌈

By Safe Electricity

Make Your MJM Account YOURS!

Moratorium Take Over Now until December 31, 2020

Many of you had homes and farms passed down to you by parents, grandparents, or maybe even great-grandparents. There is nothing more unique than living on Grandma and Grandpa's farm that you may have inherited many years ago but your MJM Electric bill may still be in your relative's name which is against MJM's Bylaws.

MJM realizes that some families may have kept the names unchanged because new Members are required to pay a deposit based on a utility credit check. In order to get our records up-to-date and comply with MJM Bylaws, we are offering a moratorium for consumers to update Membership information and transfer accounts into the correct Membership name. To clarify, this will move the existing deposit and account responsibility from a deceased relative's name to the current responsible party. This will not work if your parents, grandparents, etc. are still living and/or have an MJM account of their own. The account will be required to have at least a \$50 minimum deposit on file to complete the moratorium. Also, all new Memberships will be charged a one-time, non-refundable Membership Fee of \$5. This offer is only available until December 31, 2020, so act fast!

Keeping account names updated benefits both you and MJM. To protect our Members' information, we are unable to discuss account information with people whose names are *not* on the account. By taking advantage of this moratorium, it will allow us to provide you with the best possible member service when needed. It will also ensure that future capital credits are rightly allocated to the person paying the bill, not the previous Member(s).

It is equally critical to keep Member contact information updated such as e-mails, phone numbers, mailing addresses and other information changes. To request a name change form or to update your contact information, please contact the MJM office at 217-707-6156 or email us at info@mjmec.coop. 

Need Your Bill Faster? SmartHub Can Help!

As a reminder, MJM's billing period is calculated based on kWh usage consumed during a full calendar month - the first day thru the last day of the same month. We normally calculate billings statements on the first business day of each month. Since bills take a full day to generate, we are unable to access the new billing information until the following day. Please note that weekends and holidays will delay this information. If you would like to know your bill amount before you receive it in the mail, you may sign up for paperless statements, log into your information online at www.mjmec.coop, or call the office the day after a bill has generated. You can also access your information on our free SmartHub app. For those Members who are concerned about having less time to make a payment prior to the due date, remember we offer a 5 business day grace period after the due date to allow for such delays. Please reach out to MJM's Member Service team if you have any questions. The number to call is 217-707-6156, option 2. 



Operation Round Up Opt Out Form

Name on Account: _____

Account Number(s): _____

Current Phone Number: _____



Please send form to MJM Electric, P.O. Box 80, Carlinville, IL, 62626

Veterans, we honor you!

*"As we express our gratitude, we must
never forget the highest appreciation is
not to utter words, but to live by them. "*

John Fitzgerald Kennedy



Member Trading Post

FOR SALE: Hay for sale. Small square bales: Grass hay \$3.00 each. Oat hay \$4.00 each. You pick up. Liked by rabbits, chickens, ducks, geese, lamb, & deer. Call Kevin at 217-371-3688 or 618-494-8444.

FOR SALE: 1995 Series 9400 International, 234,222 miles, 9 speed, Fall 24 Tires, aluminum wheels. 217-923-8005, leave message.

FOR SALE: 4 tractor tires, sizes 23-850 NHS 12-16.5 NHS, only 314 hours. Excellent condition. Owner wanted less aggressive tires. \$300.00. 618-550-4957 or 618-466-5834.

FOR SALE: 3 complete sets of "wolf" collector plates, still in original containers. The first is a series of 8 from The American Wilderness plate collection by Hamilton; the second set is a series of 10 called Year of the Wolf also by Hamilton; the third set is a set of 8 from the Arctic Majesty Plate collection by Princeton. They are all 8" in size with gold trim. They look so similar that they could all be one set. I am asking \$75 per set. Call for more information: 618-585-4824.

FOR SALE: 1964 Ford Galaxie 500, all orig., 352, daily driver, auto trans., less than 136,000 mi., runs great, looks good, \$12,000 O.B.O. ALSO: 2003 Honda VTX-R, windshield, saddle bags, lightbar, luggage rack, backrest, new tires, less than 9,000 mi., \$5,000 O.B.O. PLUS: Pillsbury Doughboy Collectibles. 12 coffee mugs, 1 for each month; Perpetual Calendar with all tiles and figurines AND spice rack with 24 spice jars and lids. All in great shape. \$400 for all. Great for Christmas gifts. SERIOUS INQUIRIES ONLY. Please call 618-376-3484.

FOR SALE: Classic Vintage Mini Bike, Great condition – Harley Emblem & Shocks, recently refurbished with many extras \$400.00 call 217-320-1000.

FOR SALE: 200 amp like new service entrance. 5 wire \$400. Selling 8ft Creosote poles. \$8 each. Call 618-334-4298.

To list your free ad, email brookeg@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. Thank you.