

THE GRID

P.O. Box 709
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Mattoon, Illinois 61938

Phone: 217/235-0341
or Toll-Free:
1-888-661-CMEC (2632)
Office hours:
Monday-Friday
7:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.

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To Report an Outage
call #888-661-2632

Send your current email
to info@cmec.coop
for a chance to win a
\$50 bill credit



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



**Community born.
Community led.
Focused on YOU.**

October is
National Co-op Month!

Drive Thru Annual Meeting Event

Join us on **Tuesday, October 26** for our **2021 Member Celebration and Virtual Annual Meeting**. Members will **Drive Thru Peterson Park without leaving their vehicle starting at the southwest entrance at 11 a.m.** There will be \$25 bill credits, giveaways and instructions on how to virtually attend the business meeting at 1 p.m. Boxed lunches will be provided from Neimergs Steakhouse.

No meal tickets will be required, and meals will be limited to the number of individuals in the car.



Go Paperless – Save Time & Money!

- ✓ Sign into Smarthub at **cmec.coop**
- ✓ You will be prompted to **“Go Paperless”**
- ✓ Click on **“Yes”**
- ✓ Click on **“Submit”**
- ✓ Click **“Yes”** when asked if you are sure?

Paperless Bills
Go Paperless!!

Would you like to turn off paper bills?

Yes
 No

Please note that this will apply to all accounts registered with this email address.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Old, uninsulated and improperly installed exterior doors can waste energy and money.

Shut the door on wasted energy by weather stripping and sealing all exterior doors. If you have an old exterior door, consider replacing it with a newer, energy efficient model.

Source: *energy.gov*



4 SAFETY TIPS

TEEN DRIVERS NEED TO KNOW



1 THAT TEXT CAN WAIT

When texting while driving, the shortest amount of time a person takes his or her eyes off the road is five seconds. At 55 mph, that is like driving the length of a football field with your eyes closed.

2 DON'T GET OUT

If you are in a car accident involving a power line or padmount transformer (“green box”), stay inside the vehicle and call 9-1-1. Unless the car is on fire or giving off smoke, do not get out. If there is a fire, make a solid jump from the vehicle without touching it and hop with your feet together as far away as you can.

3 RESPECT WORK ZONES

One work zone crash occurs every 5.4 minutes. Remind teen drivers to consider anyone doing their job in or near the road as someone they know and love. Encourage them to move over and slow down for workers.

4 DON'T DRIVE DISTRACTED

Texting is not the only form of distracted driving. Driving and doing anything else is multitasking. Eight deaths occur EVERY DAY due to drivers who drive distracted.

Learn more:  Safe Electricity.org®

It's a Matter of (co-op!) Principles

By Anne Prince, NRECA

ACE Hardware, State Farm, REI, Land O'Lakes and CMEC all share something in common: we're all cooperatives. **John Barger**

We may be in different industries, but we all share a passion for serving our members and helping our communities to thrive. In fact, all cooperatives adhere to the same set of seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater community good. October is National Co-op Month, so this is the perfect time to reflect on these principles that have stood the test of time but also provide a framework for the future. Let's take a look at the first three cooperative principles.

Voluntary and Open Membership

Just like all co-ops, Coles-Moultrie Electric was created out of necessity--to meet a need that would have been otherwise unmet in our community. So, in 1938, a group of neighbors banded together and organized our electric co-op so everyone in our community could benefit. For a modest membership fee to the co-op, any farmer could get electricity brought to his farm. Neighbors came together to tackle a problem they all had but couldn't solve alone. They worked together for the benefit of the whole community, and the newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in our community.

While this history may be forgotten, key parts of that heritage remain--the focus on our mission and serving the greater good. In this, we include everyone to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion,

age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.

Democratic Member Control

Our co-op is well suited to meet the needs of our members because we are locally governed. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is run, and each voice and vote are equal. CMEC's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who help set long-term priorities for the co-op, also live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected by neighbors just like you. We know our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we are continually seeking your input and encourage you to weigh in on important co-op issues and participate in co-op elections.

Our close connection to this community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on members' priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as energy efficiency incentives, solar programs and technology upgrades.

Members' Economic Participation

As a utility, our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members. But as a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community, rather than profits. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for co-op programs, initiatives, capital investments and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Because we are guided by seven cooperative principles, it's

not just about dollars--it's about opportunity for all and being fair when engaging with our members. The cooperative way is a values-based business model.

CMEC is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. We view our role as a catalyst for good and making our corner of the world a better place. And by the way, that sums up the seventh co-op principle, "concern for community."

Need Help?

Contact our local Embarras River Basin Agency (ERBA) at 217-923-3113 for information on what documents are needed to apply and different ways to submit your application. They have provided us with the following outreach locations:

Clark County

2 W. Cumberland,
Martinsville, IL 62442
#217-712-2090

Coles County-East

696 Castle Drive,
Charleston, IL 61920
#217-500-3120

Coles County-West

416 S. 17th St, Mattoon, IL 61938
#217-961-0831

Cumberland County

115 S. Kentucky,
Greenup, IL 62428
#217-921-5505

Douglas County

107 W. South Central,
Tuscola, IL 61953
#217-253-4434

Edgar County

114 Andrew St, Paris, IL 61944
#217-500-3090



LOCAL & LOCAL Places & Faces

Doudna Fine Arts Center

1860 7th St, Charleston • 217-581-3110
eiu.edu/doudna/

Located on EIU's campus, this beautiful center hosts live performances along with a wonderful array of student music, theatre performances and art exhibits. There is always a great lineup in store each season. They offer a convenient and secure online ticketing service at doudnatix.com. If you have a question about a performance or would like to order tickets from the box office, their friendly staff is always ready to help. Box office hours are Tuesday through Thursday 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Friday 11:30 am to 2:30 p.m., and one hour before each ticketed performance. The box office number is 217-581-3110.



RICHARDS FARM RESTAURANT



Richards Farm

607 NE 13th St, Casey • 217-932-5300
richardsfarm.com

This American style restaurant, owned by Gary and Diane Richards since 1972, is in an authentic restored barn on the northeast edge of town. They are equipped for large groups and can cater your next event. They are home to the 1-pound porkchop and the World's Largest Pitchfork. They also own Stables Steakhouse and Mogger's in Terre Haute.

Sullivan Bakery

112 E Harrison St, Sullivan • 217-728-4831

Steve Jankowski and wife Dorrie manage this sweet stop in Sullivan near the square. This is a traditional small-town bakery open 6 a.m. - noon, Tuesday through Saturday. They have a large selection specializing in maple squares, cinnamon braid pastries and popular "letter" donuts. This is one of the few local artisan shops around and if you order ahead, they will make cookies, cakes and cupcakes to order. Stop early and don't risk missing out on their best sellers.



Email info@cmec.coop if you have a business, product or service you provide.

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes can be viewed on our website: cmec.coop