

## We are thankful

Amid all the challenges of this year, we hope you have a long list of things you can be thankful for this season. We wanted to share just a few of the many things we are giving thanks for this month.

**Thankful** for a team of experienced, dedicated employees who have worked hard to serve our members in new ways.

**Thankful** to be a part of our local communities that have stayed strong during this past year.

**Thankful** for you – our members – and our ability to serve you as a member-owned electric cooperative.

**Thankful** to serve members in our secure newly remodeled lobby.



**Thankful** to aid another cooperative in need.

Menard Electric linemen joined over 700 other utility workers to rebuild Jeff Davis Electric Co-op in Louisiana. The co-op's system was completely devastated after Hurricane Laura, leaving all 11,000+ members without power. It took five weeks to restore power to 75% of members when Hurricane Delta hit and again

all members were without power. Two six-man crews were deployed separately, each for two, two-week stints to Louisiana. We are thankful for our linemen's safe return and for their dedication to helping others. We are also thankful our electrical system has never suffered such devastation; we take comfort in the knowledge that should we ever be in such need, other co-ops would come to our aid.



*Aiding Louisiana after Hurricanes Laura and Delta. Above: Area Serviceman Matt Wassell, Crew Leader Brandon Blair, Lineman Kyle Hill, Mechanic/ Groundman Michael Justice, Lineman Levi Vogt and Area Serviceman Troy Shafer. Below: Lineman Nick Schachtsiek, Leadman Jeremy Willis, Area Serviceman Seth Parker, Lineman Jason Beggs, Apprentice Lineman Austin Harvey and Area Serviceman Dwaine Heyen.*



## DID YOU KNOW?

### Facts about your oven/range that can help you cook safely and efficiently

- Opening the oven door reduces the temperature up to 25 degrees.
- Recipes that bake longer than an hour most likely do not require pre-heating.
- Glass and ceramic dishes hold heat better and may allow you to reduce the temperature 25 degrees.
- You can likely turn off your oven during the last 5-10 minutes of baking time.
- Clean and shiny reflectors under burners reflect heat better.
- Copper-bottom pans heat up faster on the stovetop.
- Unattended cooking is the #1 cause of kitchen fires and kitchen fires are the #1 cause of home fires.
- Oven mitts, towels, recipe books, food packages and wooden utensils should be stored away from the stove.
- If a fire starts in the oven, you should turn it off and keep the door closed.
- If you have a grease fire on the stovetop, you should place a lid on the pot, turn off the burner, and leave covered until it has completely cooled.
- A fire extinguisher needs to be kept in the kitchen but away from the stove.
- GFCI outlets should be tested monthly.



*Alisha Anker*  
General Manager

## Pan-Fried Brussels Sprouts with Bacon

- 1/2 cup Brussels sprouts
- 2 strips bacon, chopped
- 1/4 teaspoon sea salt and black pepper, optional
- 2 tablespoons shredded Parmesan cheese, optional

Place a nonstick skillet over medium heat and partially fry chopped bacon. Remove bacon from pan, do not discard grease. Wash sprouts, cut and discard stems, then split in half lengthwise. Sauté sprouts in bacon grease. Season with salt and pepper; continue cooking until slightly charred on edges. Add bacon to skillet and continue frying with sprouts until done to preference. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese, if desired, and serve. 53 calories • 4g carbs (2g fiber) • 5g fat • 5g protein

## Asparagus & Nut Salad

- 1/2 cup asparagus, cut in 1- to 2-inch spears
- 1/4 cup iceberg lettuce, chopped
- 1/4 cup spinach leaves, chopped
- 1/8 cup green onions or shallots, chopped
- 1/8 cup slivered almonds
- 1/8 cup walnuts, chopped
- Black pepper to taste, optional

### Dressing:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon Balsamic vinegar
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon honey

Steam asparagus spears for 5-10 minutes or until crispy and tender. Drain and pat dry. Set aside in refrigerator to cool. In a bowl or dressing shaker, combine dressing ingredients and set aside. Chop lettuce, spinach, and green onion or shallots in a mixing bowl and top with chilled asparagus. Drizzle with dressing and toss lightly. Garnish with slivered almonds and walnuts, toss again and serve. 149 calories • 8g carbs (3g fiber) • 12g fat • 4g protein

*Alisha says, "These simple recipes are two of my new favorites. Each is keto-friendly and can be easily adapted for more than one person. I always prepare extra of the salad dressing and store in my dressing shaker for future servings, no refrigeration needed."*





**Election Day is November 3**  
Visit [vote.coop](http://vote.coop) for information

## LIHEAP

Funds are now available to help pay your electric bill through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Program year 2021 is open. Contact your local agency as soon as possible to see if you are eligible.

### MCS Community Services

Cass/Morgan County  
217-243-9404

### Community Action Partnership of Central Illinois

Logan/Mason/Menard County  
217-732-2159 • capcil.info

### Decatur-Macon County Opportunities Corporation

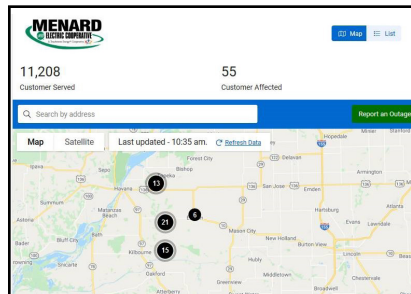
Macon County  
217-428-2193 • dmcoc.org

### Sangamon County

217-535-3120 • co.sangamon.il.us

### Tazewood Community Services

Tazewell County  
309-694-4391 • tazewoodcs.org



## Stay connected

Winter weather can include strong winds, heavy snow and ice that can lead to power outages. The easiest way to report and stay connected to us during an outage is through our MyMEC app. It also links to our secure online portal to manage your account.



## \$2,000 Scholarships

### 11 College Scholarships

available through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarship Program.

Scholarships are available for children of electric cooperative members and employees attending four-year colleges and universities or two-year community colleges.

**Deadline: December 31, 2020**

### 1 Line School Scholarship

available through the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship for Lincoln Land Community College.

Available for children of co-op members, co-op employees or directors, those presently enrolled in the lineworker school, and those who have served/are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard.

**Deadline: April 30, 2021**

Visit  
[www.menard.com/scholarships](http://www.menard.com/scholarships)  
to apply.



**Office Closings**  
**Nov. 11 Veterans Day**  
**Nov. 26-27 Thanksgiving**



# Board highlights

August 25, 2020

For full minutes visit [menard.com](http://menard.com) or contact the office.

- Present in person or by Zoom were Directors D. Jay Frye, Warren D. Goetsch, Gary Holloway, Gary Martin, Donald McMillan, Michael Patrick, Dennis Ryan & Jodine Tate; Manager of Accounting & Information Systems Chris Hinton, Manager Alisha Anker & Attorney Charles Smith. Director Steven Worner absent.
- Anker: Reviewed Conflict of Interest Policy; Motion carried to approve Directors' individual Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements.
- Hinton: Reviewed Federal Forms 990 & 990T; Illinois Forms 990 & 990T. Motion carried to approve & sign all forms.
- Hinton: Review of 2020-2023 Work Plan & Loan Approval; Forms 740C, AD-3030 & RD400-4. Motion carried to approve & sign all forms.
- Anker: Reviewed License Agreement for IDNR Sanganois State Wildlife & Fishing Area #6632.
- Anker: Reviewed Kilbourne Franchise Agreement. Motion carried to approve.
- Anker: Reviewed 2020 NRECA Directors Survey, part 1.
- Anker: Reviewed operating statement, balance sheet & budget; member services report; changes to policies: *Billing & Terms of Payment, Security Deposit & Continuity, Disconnection of Service*; LiHEAP summary; possible retiree HRA policy; operations & reliability report; safety report & Connect newsletter.
- Motion carried for NRECA Region 5 delegate to remain Director Ryan & Alternate Director Patrick.
- Goetsch: Gave AIEC report.
- Martin: Gave Prairie Power Inc. report.
- Motion carried to approve Agreement for Project Management Services of Member Facilities.
- Board entered into executive session; reconvened.
- Next Board meeting 9/22/20 at 6:00 p.m.

## Generator safety

Tragically, the majority of deaths attributed to Hurricane Laura this year were linked to improper use of generators that resulted in carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless, toxic gas that can be fatal after only a few minutes of exposure.

Generators should never be used indoors, in an attached garage, or anywhere near your home's windows, doors or vents. Set your generator up outdoors in a dry location far from your home (rig a canopy if needed to protect it from precipitation); if you worry about theft secure it to a tree or outdoor structure. Watch the wind direction and remember that even 15 feet could be too close to your home if fumes were to be able to enter through an opening.

### Other tips:

- Read the manual and perform regular maintenance between uses.
- Use extension cords rated for heavier, outdoor use to connect appliances directly to the generator.
- Never plug a portable generator into a wall outlet or connect to your home's wiring.
- Turn on appliances one at a time to avoid overloading the unit.
- Before shutting down a generator turn off and unplug all appliances/equipment being powered by it.
- Always turn off the generator and allow it to cool before refueling it.

Remember, any backup generation connected to your electric system must have an automatic transfer



switch. Without the switch the backup generation could feed back onto our lines, putting our linemen and others at risk of electrocution.

If you use a standby permanent generator we need to know. You or your installing contractor must submit the online Backup Generator Application at [www.menard.com/generators](http://www.menard.com/generators). If you do not have internet access, call the office to request a paper copy.

## Budget Billing

Enroll in Budget Billing and you will pay the same amount each month for 11 months. The 12th month you will "settle up" with a credit if you used less than the estimated amount of electricity, or a balance due if you used more. We will periodically evaluate the account and apply a one-time adjustment if needed to keep you from having a large settlement amount.

Email [info@menard.com](mailto:info@menard.com) or call 800-872-1203 with your account number for details.

**Sign up soon to be part of our new cycle with a November 2021 billing settleup month.**

## Combine with Paperless Billing & Automatic Payment for the ultimate in convenience!

**Paperless Billing:** Log on to your account through the MyMEC App or at [menard.com](http://menard.com). Select Account Management and check the Email and Paperless boxes to receive your bill by email only each month.

**Automatic Payment:** Sign up on the back of your payment stub to pay your bill from your checking or savings account on the 10th, 17th or 24th each month.

