

# PowerLines

April 2022

## Welcome to springtime!

Welcome to springtime! It is good to see the beginning of new growth and the myriad shades of green appearing. Please remember to be safe in all of your activities outside, whether they involve work or recreational.

The month of April has two national employee appreciation days, national lineworker appreciation day on the 18th, and administrative professional day on the 27th. We recognize all employees during our April safety meeting with a special luncheon. We are fortunate to have dedicated and knowledgeable employees at EIEC. They have performed especially well during the last two years of uncertain and unusual conditions related to the pandemic. Thank you for recognizing them in your annual survey comments, and in the comments received from you throughout the year.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association annual meeting was recently held in Nashville. One of the themes for the event was the "future of electric power". The keynote speaker for the last session was Dan Burrus, a technology

futurist, author, and business consultant. He has a long track record of success in business strategy, and in identifying disruptive innovation technologies and global trends.

He presented many thought provoking ideas, including that there are three indisputable hard trends: demographics, government regulation, and technological advances. We are all aware of the two year pandemic that changed many aspects of our economy and how businesses function. His analysis can help make sense of these changes and the opportunities the changes will offer.

No matter what our occupation may be, some of his ideas can help us peer into the future. Google Mr. Burrus for more information or check into his latest book, "The Anticipatory Organization".

Enjoy Spring!

Sincerely,

*Bob Hunzinger*



St. Pete Beach is a post-card perfect seaside destination that boasts 361 days of sunshine per year. Visitors enjoy the white sand beaches and balmy waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Photo by Bob Hunzinger

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- Standby generator considerations
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- Dates of EIEC Annual Meetings
- National Lineworker Appreciation

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## EASTERN ILLINI ANNUAL MEETINGS SAVE THE DATE

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Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative 2022 Annual Meetings will be held in June. This year there will be three meetings in three locations, and you may attend whatever meeting works best for you.

**06/02: Tuscola Community Center**

**06/07: Gordyville Auction, Gifford**

**06/09: Iroquois Co. Fairgrounds**

Fried chicken meals will be served from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The business meeting will begin at 6:15 p.m.

Members are asked to register for the meeting they will be attending on the Eastern Illini website:

[www.eiec.coop](http://www.eiec.coop)

Please indicate how many will be attending, so we can prepare enough food for everyone to enjoy!

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Your Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup>  
Cooperative 

BE PREPARED FOR THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE  
**Stormproof your home's power**

# Stormproof your home's power.



## Get ready for storm season with a Briggs & Stratton® standby generator.

Face the power of every storm with the confidence of a backup generator from Briggs & Stratton. When there is a power outage, your standby generator is ready to automatically kick in to keep your food from spoiling, your basement from flooding, and your family safe and comfortable.



Contact Kenney Davenport for more information:  
217-379-0410 or [kenney.davenport@ieic.coop](mailto:kenney.davenport@ieic.coop)



**YOU. POWERED.**

# Standby generator considerations

Everyone has, at one time or another, been caught in a winter storm and the power goes out. Sometimes these outages only last a couple of hours, but others can last for days. The U.S. Energy Information Administration reports that customers in the U.S. go without power for an average of four hours per year. While this can be very inconvenient and unexpected for families, a standby generator can be a great solution to keeping your family warm and your home safe. If you're considering investing in a standby generator, here are a few questions to ask before buying:

### Is a standby generator right for me?

Outside of the obvious inconveniences that come with being out of power, one main reason a generator might be right for you is if you're at risk of losing your personal property if the power fails. This might be frozen pipes during an outage, expensive food spoiling or necessary medical equipment working improperly. The best time to have a standby generator installed is before something like this happens to you.

### Prioritize your power needs.

When the power goes out unexpectedly, what do you need to carry on with your basic daily functions? Some people install generators to keep the essential functions of their home up and running, such as the refrigerator, heat, and a few lights. Other people invest in a generator to continue functioning as if the power is not out. Before you invest in a standby generator for your home, decide what you'll use it for and what you can live without. The greater the size and use of the system, the greater the cost.

### What size generator is adequate for me?

Generators supply a specific amount of power that can't be stretched. When talking with an electrician, make sure you request an NEC (National Electric Code) approved load calculation with the estimated cost of the appropriate size generator to meet your needs.

### Know what you're buying.

Be sure to do some research and talk to an electrical professional about the type of standby generator you are buying.

Read reviews, and ask about their warranty and maintenance agreements.

### What does installation involve?

You'll want to have a certified electrician install your new generator. The contractor will do a site survey, that will help determine generator placement at your home, so it's in accordance with local codes and ordinances. The location is usually located close to the home's incoming gas and electric line.

For the safety our Eastern Illini linemen, we ask that you don't connect a generator directly to your home's wiring as it can backfeed power into our distribution lines. An electrician should install a double-throw transfer switch. Also, never plug a generator into a household outlet as that can also backfeed power.

### Remember: Knowledge is Power

Standby generators are designed to protect your biggest investment: your home. Take the time to get accurate answers regarding your system to keep your family safe.



Thank you for all you do for members and employees.

## HAPPY ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL DAY



For all you give, for all you do,  
for working hard, for being you.  
For being there day in, day out...  
**THANKS** is what today's about!



April 27, 2022



# A GREAT PLACE TO ENJOY NATURE

## Homer Lake: A hidden jewel



As the weather begins to warm and the grass turns green, you'll want to consider visiting Champaign County Forest Preserve District's Homer Lake. Tucked away in the corn and bean fields about 2 miles south of Ogden is a hidden jewel where wildlife and natural beauty abound. Homer Lake Forest Preserve offers 814 acres that create experiences of engagement and exploration in nature.

There's something for everyone at Homer Lake. Climb on logs and jump off rocks at the Natural Playscape. Stop by the Interpretive Center and view live animals, engage with interactive exhibits, and learn about

events like The Owl Prowl. The wide array of birds at Homer Lake makes for fascinating viewing. Fishing and boating are also popular activities along with hiking on the 10 miles of trails that cross grasslands, prairies, and woodlands. Homer Lake staff aim to connect people with nature. On any given day, employees make presentations to school groups, 4-H clubs, scouts, and Interpretive Center visitors. No two days are the

same and that's what makes the job fun according to those who work at Homer Lake. Many appreciate watching the changing seasons in a natural setting. Seasons in which nature flourishes and grows, changes colors, and prepares for the coming cold, hibernates, and waits patiently, then bursts forth with new growth and new life.

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District encourages everyone to get outside and embrace nature. Homer Lake is a great place to host a family reunion, enjoy a picnic on a Sunday afternoon, catch a crappie, and soak up the sun and surroundings. One visit to Homer Lake and you'll want to come back again and again!

Homer Lake Forest Preserve has several significant historical connections. The county highway bordering the north end of the preserve was the horse trail Abraham Lincoln traveled when he served on the 8th Judicial Circuit. A Looking for Lincoln wayside exhibit now marks the location. The preserve also includes the 14-acre site once known as Old Homer Park, a popular "destination park" on the Salt Fork River in the early 1900s. It was purchased by W.B. McKinley. In 1905, C.B. Burkhardt leased and started Homer Park.

Here's how to get more information about Homer Lake:

<https://www.ccfpd.org/forest-preserves/homer-lake-illinois>

Facebook:  
HomerLakeInterpretiveCenter

Phone: (217) 896-2455; Address: 2573 South Homer Lake Road, Homer, IL

As the days get longer and warmer, now might be a great time to spend an hour or even a day at Homer Lake. You will leave enriched as nature provides opportunities for learning and gaining a greater respect for the wildlife and woodlands around us.



DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE  
**2022 Annual Meeting Dates**

EASTERN ILLINI ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
**ANNUAL MEETINGS**

3:30 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. FOOD SERVED  
6:15 P.M. BUSINESS MEETING

**JUNE  
2**

TUSCOLA  
COMMUNITY  
BUILDING

**JUNE  
7**

GORDYVILLE  
AUCTION HOUSE  
IN GIFFORD

**JUNE  
9**

IROQUOIS  
COUNTY  
FAIRGROUNDS

**SIT DOWN MEAL WITH FRIED CHICKEN**

*Musical entertainment while you eat*

**RSVP: 800-824-5102 or [www.eiec.coop](http://www.eiec.coop)**



Eastern Illini  
Electric  
Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**FOR MORE  
INFORMATION VISIT:  
[www.eiec.coop](http://www.eiec.coop)**

# THANK YOU

We appreciate your dedication and hard work in delivering electricity safely and keeping the power flowing.

- Mike Batte
- Jeff Blackford
- Mike Bristle
- Jonah Carney
- Jaxson Coplea
- Nick Curry
- Kevin Dettmering
- Jay Eshleman
- Joey Gady
- Joe Garey
- Travis Glazik
- Byron Hartsock
- Bill Hoffschneider
- Alex Hubert
- Matt Huddleston
- Jason Kocher
- Tim Kulow
- Scott Lane
- Scott McTaggart
- Cliff Miller
- Sean Miller
- Todd Moore
- Ken Mutchmore
- Jeremiah Nichols
- Luke Perzee
- Junior Price
- Graham Schmid
- Drew Schrodt
- Brad Smith
- Reese Snider
- Doug Vaughn
- Brad Weisenbarn

**nationallineworkerappreciationday** april 18

