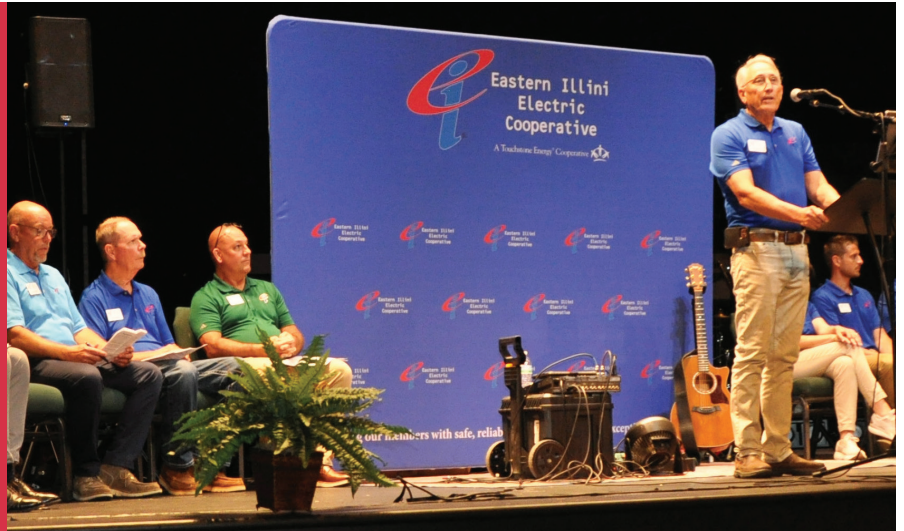


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39TH EASTERN ILLINI ANNUAL MEETING

Thank you for your participation!

We want to thank Eastern Illini members who attended the Annual Meeting on Monday, June 8th, at the First Christian Church in Champaign. It was great to be able to enjoy a sit-down fried chicken meal and talk with members, friends, and neighbors. We hope everyone enjoyed the food, music, and Home and Health Expo. We appreciate the exhibitors who participated. I want to give a shout out to our employees who ensured the meeting ran smoothly and was a success.

The business meeting kicked off at 6 p.m. Kevin Moore, Chairman of the Eastern Illini Board of Directors, welcomed everyone. Bruce Ristow, Vice Chairman, confirmed the notice and proof of mailing for the meeting. The meeting minutes and Treasurer's Report were approved.

Guy Hall, attorney for Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, determined that quorum had been achieved. He announced the board of directors' election results:

- District 2:** John Wilken
- District 5:** Kevin Moore
- District 9:** Lauri Quick

I shared with everyone at the meeting and I want to share with you that my vision for leading the cooperative into the future involves trust and value.

We know our members trust us to provide safe and reliable electricity for their homes, farms, and businesses. You trust us to keep the lights on during the hottest days of summer, the coldest nights of winter, and during the storms that inevitably come our way. Trust is not built through words alone. It is built through actions. It is built by our employees who answer the phones. It is built by our line workers who work long hours restoring power after a storm. It is every employee who understands that serving our members is more than a job, it is our responsibility.

When people hear the word value, they often think only about cost. Value means receiving dependable service every day. It means investing in our electric system so that it remains strong and reliable. It means offering energy solutions that help our members manage their energy needs and improve their quality of life. As a cooperative, our focus is different. Our mission is not to maximize profits for outside investors. Our mission is to create value for the people we serve, you, the members who own the cooperative. That means being responsible stewards of your

resources. It means balancing today's needs with tomorrow's opportunities. It means making decisions based on long-term benefits rather than short-term gains. Trust and value work together. At Eastern Illini, we earn trust by consistently delivering value. We create value because our members trust us to make decisions on their behalf.

As we look ahead, the energy industry continues to change. New technologies will emerge. Regulations will evolve. Expectations will grow. In the midst of change, our mission will remain the same: Provide our members with safe, reliable energy solutions and exceptional service.

Following the annual meeting, the board held their reorganization meeting to elect the executive committee. Officers are:

- Chairman:** Bruce Ristow
- Vice Chairman:** Chad Larimore
- Secretary/Treasurer:** Steve Meenen
- Assistant Secy/Treasurer:** Kevin Moore



Bradley W. Smith

BRADLEY W. SMITH
President/CEO

HOME PREPARATION BEFORE VACATION

Enjoy peace of mind while you are away

Who doesn't love a vacation? Whether it is chilling on a beach or hiking a wooded trail, it is the perfect way to recharge your batteries and take a break from the daily grind. And while leaving your home is meant to be an exciting break from the potentially mundane, you want to get away feeling confident your property is in a good state. Before you head out the door here are some things to do so that you feel comfortable leaving your home.

How to prepare your house for vacation

There are many things to do before you leave for vacation. If you're going out of the country, you're probably notifying your credit card company, checking for the 30th time that your passport is up to date and stocking up on all your travel necessities. In addition to getting yourself ready, you'll want to prepare your home; for example, locking your doors and windows, unplugging electronics and cleaning out your fridge.

Set an alarm

This leads us to the next safety step, setting an alarm. If you have an alarm system installed in your home, going on a vacation could be a great time to use it. If you forgot your password or you've been meaning to finally lock your home security system in place, consider preparing this a few weeks before you leave.

Put valuables in a safe

Everyone owns something they hold close to their heart. And this doesn't necessarily mean you're stowing away giant jewels and silver dollars. This could be your computer, a cherished letter, even a stuffed animal. Put away anything that (in an emergency) you wouldn't want to lose.

Unplug electronics

Make sure to unplug all unnecessary electronics before leaving for your trip. This may include unused chargers, hair tools,

routers, televisions, microwaves and anything with a loose wire that's easy to plug back in upon your return. Unplugging electronics will help keep your home safe from potential fire hazards and could also save you some money on your electric bill.

Prepare your light system

Speaking of electric bills, consider setting up an automatic light system so your home isn't consistently dark. Aside from saving money and energy, setting a timer on garage lights or designing a potential system indoors can keep your home looking lively and provide you with peace of mind.

Set your thermostat

Another tip to prepare your house for vacation is setting your thermostat, which may be easier to do if you have a smart thermostat. Controlling the temperature of your house is important to help keep your home safe while you're away.

Clean out your fridge

It's happened to the best of us, you return home from a long trip and the lettuce has wilted, the berries have gone moldy and the milk is ... the wrong texture. Do a quick scan and throw out perishable items so you can return to a happy fridge.

Take out the trash

After cleaning out your fridge, it's time to take the trash out. Survey the kitchen, bathrooms, bedrooms and anywhere else

you have a trash can. This helps prevent unwanted bugs, rodents and smells from accruing inside and outside of your home.

Mow the lawn

While this suggestion may sound like common sense, mow your lawn before you leave. It helps keep your home looking lively and like someone is there to help take care of the property. An overgrown lawn may symbolize neglect or absence.

Ask a neighbor to collect your mail

If possible, ask a trusted neighbor to help collect your mail. This will help you stay organized while you're gone and prevent papers from stacking up outside your door.

We can all agree that vacation is a time for leisurely fun, so do yourself a favor and prepare your home before you leave on vacation. Remember to unplug unnecessary appliances, lock your doors, take out the trash, and have an amazing trip!

HEADING OUT OF TOWN?

Before leaving on vacation unplug TVs, the coffee maker, phone chargers, and gaming systems that consume energy even when in the "off" mode.



SAFETY IN THE SUN

Reduce skin cancer risks

Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in the U.S. One in five of us will develop it in our lifetime, and nearly 20 Americans die from melanoma every day.

The most common types of skin cancers are basal and squamous cell carcinomas and melanoma. The risk of melanoma doubles for people who have had more than five sunburns in their lifetime. To prevent skin cancer, protect yourself from UV rays.

Here are some steps to lower your risk. Enjoy the sun in the early morning or late afternoon. The more sunscreen the better. SPF 30 broad-spectrum sunscreen blocks about 97% of UVB rays and should be

Say **YES** to
Sun Protection
Say **NO** to Skin Cancer

applied every two hours or after swimming. Wear UPF-rated clothing. Don't forget to protect your eyes. Avoid artificial tanning beds. Be extra vigilant at the beach. Don't forget your lips. Check the UV index before heading out in the sun. See a dermatologist annually and remember the ABCDE rule to self-check moles monthly: Asymmetry, Border, Color, Diameter, Evolving. If there is any change, growth or unusual spots call your dermatologist immediately for an appointment. Don't wait!



- View your bill
- Make a payment
- Compare usage by month
- Review known issues
- Report an outage
- Update account info



SIGN UP TODAY!

Skin cancer is the most common cancer in the U.S.

One in five Americans will develop skin cancer in their lifetime, and nearly 20 Americans die from melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer, every day.



Since exposure to the sun's harmful UV rays is the most preventable risk factor for skin cancer, protect your skin by:

- Seeking shade
- Wearing sun-protective clothing
- Applying sunscreen to all skin not covered by clothing



There are two types of sunscreens:



Physical Sunscreen

This sunscreen works like a shield; it sits on the surface of your skin, deflecting the sun's rays.

Look for the active ingredients zinc oxide and/or titanium dioxide.

Opt for this sunscreen if you have sensitive skin.



Chemical Sunscreen

This sunscreen works as a sponge, absorbing the sun's rays.

Look for one or more of the following active ingredients: oxybenzone, avobenzene, octisalate, octocrylene, homosalate and octinoxate.

This formulation tends to be easier to rub into the skin without leaving a white residue.



If you have concerns about certain sunscreen ingredients, use the information above to choose an alternative that works for you. As long as it's broad-spectrum, water-resistant and has an SPF 30 or higher, it can effectively protect you from the sun. Make sure you reapply it every two hours, or after swimming or sweating.

SCAM TIP

Scammers are using "smishing" — fake text messages that look like they're from EIEC. These texts claim your bill is overdue, your service will be disconnected or you're owed a refund. They often include a link that directs you to a fake payment site or asks for personal information. Don't click on suspicious links or respond to unexpected texts.

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KEEP YOUR PETS SAFE

Prepare for July 4th fireworks

We love the 4th of July! But our pets certainly don't share the same sentiment. Loud and sudden noises are generally frightening and stressful for our furry friends. As pet owners, it's our responsibility to ensure they feel safe and calm during this time of year. Here are some essential tips to help your pets stay comfortable during fireworks displays.

Keep them indoors

We know having your pet with you can be enjoyable, but fireworks can be dangerous for your pets' ears, eyes, and overall safety. Large crowds, loud noise, and a fast-paced environment are often overwhelming for even the most social, outgoing pups! The loud booms and bright flashes may cause panic. If you have indoor - outdoor cats, be sure to bring them inside too. Ensure all windows and doors are securely closed and close the curtains to minimize the visual impact of the fireworks.

Create a safe haven

Designate a quiet, comfortable area in your home where your pet can safely retreat if they feel scared. This space should be away from windows and as soundproof as possible. Equip it with their favorite bed, toys, and some familiar items to help them feel secure. Consider playing soft music or turning on white noise to mask the sound of fireworks. If you'll be away for the show, consider a crate or carrier.

Identification & microchipping

Did you know that more pets go missing during Fourth of July week than any other time of year? In the unfortunate event that your pet does escape, having proper identification is crucial. Ensure your pet is wearing a collar with an ID tag that has up-to-date contact information. Microchipping your pet adds an extra layer of security, making it easier for shelters and veterinarians to identify and return your pet if they get lost.

Provide comfort & distraction

If you can, stay with your pet and provide comfort during the fireworks. Your presence alone can be very reassuring. Engage them with their favorite toys or activities to distract them from the noise outside. Puzzle toys filled with treats can be particularly effective in keeping their minds occupied.

Use calming products

There are various products available that can help calm your pet during stressful situations. Consider using pheromone diffusers, calming sprays, or anxiety wraps or calming vests, which provide gentle, comforting pressure. Always consult your veterinarian before using any calming supplements or medications.

Maintain a calm demeanor

Pets often pick up on their owners' emotions, so it's important to remain calm and composed. If you are anxious, your pet may become more stressed. Speak to them in a soothing voice and avoid any sudden movements that could startle them further.

Desensitization training

If your pet has a history of being anxious during fireworks, consider desensitization training in the weeks leading up to the 4th of July. Play recordings of fireworks at a low volume and gradually increase the volume over time, rewarding your pet for staying calm. This can help them become more accustomed to the sounds and less reactive.

Plan ahead for potty breaks

Ensure your pet has ample opportunity to relieve themselves before the fireworks begin. This reduces the need to take them outside during the event, which can be a stressful experience for them.

Exercise them during the day

Tiring your pet out during the day can help them relax more easily once the noise begins. Enjoy a long walk, hike, or some playtime in the yard before the sparks begin to fly!

Consult your veterinarian

If your pet has severe anxiety or a history of extreme reactions to fireworks, consult your veterinarian.

The 4th of July can be a challenging time for pets, but with proper preparation and care, you can help your furry friends stay safe and calm.

Remember, a little extra effort can go a long way in making this holiday a positive experience for both you and your favorite furry friends!

KEEP YOUR PETS SAFE

Never leave pets unattended outside during fireworks displays, as they may become scared and run away.

Make sure your pet's ID tags and microchip information are up to date in case they get lost.

Safe Electricity.org®

SUMMER ENERGY SAVINGS TIPS

Beat the heat

Summer is the time for pool parties, frosty treats, picnics and barbecues. It can also mean increased cooling costs as the temperatures rise. Here are some tips to help you beat the heat and save money on your energy bill.

Give your air conditioner a checkup

One of the most important factors in reducing energy costs and keeping cool is maximizing the efficiency of your cooling systems. Clearing a clogged A/C unit filter alone can save 5 to 15 percent in energy use and it will help keep the unit in proper working order for longer - saving you money on expensive replacements down the road.

Adjust your thermostat

In the summer, especially on particularly hot days, “adjusting the thermostat” evokes the feeling of furiously pressing the down arrow on the control panel. Maybe not the best choice for maximum energy efficiency. Instead, set your thermostat at a temperature you find comfortable and that provides humidity control, if needed. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your overall cooling bill will be.

Keep your house warmer than normal when you are away and lower the thermostat setting when you return home and need cooling. A programmable thermostat allows you to do this automatically and without sacrificing comfort.

Avoid setting your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you first turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.

Use fans instead of A/C

It is important to make your A/C more efficient – but did you know fans use roughly 1/60th the energy of an A/C?



Ceiling fans can cut back on air conditioning needs, saving up to 40 percent on electricity. Fans, while they don't cool the air, they pull body heat away from your skin, and can be used in conjunction with air conditioning, letting you raise your thermostat a few degrees and still remain comfortable.

Turn off ceiling fans when you leave the room. Remember that fans cool people, not rooms, by creating a wind chill effect.

When you shower or take a bath, use the bathroom fan to remove heat and humidity from your home. Your laundry room might also benefit from spot ventilation. Make sure bathroom and kitchen fans are vented to the outside (not just to the attic).

Lower your water heating costs

Water heating accounts for about 18 percent of the energy consumed in your home. Lowering the temperature of your water heater can help save energy, and who needs to take a scalding hot shower in the summer anyway?

Laundry, another water-hog, can also be optimized in the summer. Make sure you maximize your loads. This gets you more for your money and helps you do laundry less often. Also, consider doing laundry with cold water and hang drying.

Optimize how you use your dishwasher

Saving electricity and money with your dishwasher comes down to optimizing how you load, set, and run it.

Dishwashers use a fixed amount of water and electricity per cycle, regardless of how many dishes are inside. Wait until the machine is fully packed—but not overcrowded—before hitting start. Running a full dishwasher is generally much more water and energy-efficient than washing the same amount of dishes by hand under a running faucet.

Modern dishwashers and detergents are powerful enough to remove stuck-on food. Pre-rinsing wastes both water and the energy used to heat that water in the sink. Simply scrape excess food into the trash and load.

Many users default to heavy, high-temperature cycles. Switching to your machine's “Eco” or normal setting uses a lower water temperature and relies on a longer soak time. This can slash a cycle's energy consumption by 20% to 30%. The heated dry feature is the biggest energy hog on your machine. Turn off the heated dry and select an air-dry, auto-open, or condensation dry option instead.

Use these energy savings tips to help keep the cost of energy lower during the dog days of summer while still keeping your home cool and comfortable.



2026 EASTERN ILLINI ANNUAL MEETING



JUNE 8, 2026

