


MJM

Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

along the lines

VOLUME 4

November 2011

NUMBER 11

www.mjmec.coop

*Merry
Christmas*

and Happy New Year!

*from the Directors, Attorney,
CEO and Employees of
MJM Electric Cooperative*



**M.J.M Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

264 North East Street
Carlinville, Illinois 62626
Phone: 800-648-4729



Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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Operations

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 800-648-4729. Do not call the
local lineman. Collect calls will be
accepted to report outages.**

When you report an outage, give your name and location number. Before calling, check your fuses or circuit breakers. Check with your neighbors. Call to report hazardous conditions.

M.J.M. Along The Lines

(USPS 854-620) is published monthly for \$3.00 per year by M.J.M. Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 80, Carlinville, Illinois 62626. Second-class postage paid at Carlinville, IL. POSTMASTER: Send Address changes to M.J.M. Along the Lines, P.O. Box 80, Carlinville, IL 62626.



**Need a Break This
Holiday Season? Give
your Energy Bill one too!**

If you're not planning to stick around for the holidays, Safe Electricity offers some advice to help your electricity run efficiently and safely while you are away. These tips will not only lower your energy bill, but will help keep your house safe in your absence:

➔ Unplug some of your household appliances - your house has many items that always use electricity when there plugged in, even when turned off. Unplugging these items not only save energy, but in some cases, can prevent possible fire hazards during your absence. Some of the more common items include: television sets, DVD players, VCRs, cable TV boxes, microwave ovens and toasters.

➔ Adjust the refrigerator control to a warmer setting - the fridge can be as high as 40° F without spoiling food; the freezer can reach 5° F. On these settings, you can save up to 40 percent of the refrigerators electric usage. If you are going on an extended trip, consider emptying the fridge and

turning it off (remember to leave the door open to prevent mildew).

➔ Set the thermostat higher or lower than the typical comfort level - you should consider lowering your thermostat, but to no lower than 55° F. Typically, by doing this, you can save 10 to 30 percent on your heating costs. A programmable thermostat can do adjustments automatically.

➔ Turn down the water heater - a large percentage of the cost of running a water heater comes from just keeping the water at the selected temperature. If you are going on a lengthy trip, turn down the water heater's temperature to the lowest setting. This can save you up to \$10 a month.

Safe Electricity wants to remind everyone this holiday season that a safe and efficient celebration is the best celebration. Please keep your holidays bright, and follow the suggestions of Safe Electricity.



Tips To Cut Your Utility Bills

It's that time of year again

Doug Rye

Fall is such a wonderful time of year. It's not too hot, it's not too cold and the leaves are absolutely beautiful.

The mums, pumpkins, hay, cornstalks and scarecrows seem to be placed in perfect arrangements.

It is also the time of year when I hear this question over and over –

“Should we buy an individual room heater?”

As winter inches closer, you will start seeing an assortment of individual room heaters for sale near the entry of home centers, drug stores, grocery stores, farm stores and other retail outlets. You may get different types of mail explaining why you should buy a certain room heater. You might see a full page ad in a newspaper or magazine telling you that you might save up to 30 to 40 percent on your heating bill if you purchase and use a certain room heater. There are tall heaters and short heaters. There are heaters with lights and heaters with no lights. Some have fans and some do not. Some swivel back and forth to blow the air in different directions. Some look a little like a wood-burning fireplace. Others are in a nice looking cabinet with a cat sleeping on the top. And lastly, some cost \$50 and others may cost \$350.

Well, it all sounds interesting but it can also be confusing. Therefore, many of you ask me or the folks at your local electric co-op for advice. We, in turn, just try to give you the facts. Then you can make the decision. First, please under-

stand that some room heaters are safer than others. I shutter when I hear a story about a child who has thrown a blanket over an open heater and a fire has occurred. Many fires occur each winter related to room heaters.

I think that you will find that just about all of the advertised room heaters are rated at about 1,500 watts because that is about the maximum that you can plug into a regular 110-volt outlet without overloading the breaker. The formula is: amps x volts = watts. A typical outlet would be 15 amps x 110 volts = 1,650 watts. At 1,650 watts, that circuit could support a room heater and a couple of table lamps. (A typical handheld hair dryer uses 1,500 watts.)

Another formula that applies is: watts x 3.4 = British thermal units (Btu) per hour. So, regardless of how the 1,500-watt heater looks or sounds, or whether it uses lamps or elements, it can deliver a maximum of 5,115 Btu per hour for heat. In most cases, they deliver less than the maximum and are rated at 3,500 to 4,500 Btu per hour. My calculations show that a 12-foot by 12-foot room with 4-inch R11-insulated walls, a 6-inch R19-insulated ceiling and 2- to 3-foot by 4-foot windows would require about 4,400 Btu per hour of heat on a cold winter day. A 1,500-watt heater would probably heat that room if you kept the door to the room closed.

Now, for the rest of the story. ALL space heaters, regardless of their fuel source, cost money to operate. However, electric space heaters are 100 percent energy efficient and do not emit moisture

or harmful carbon monoxide. When used properly, they are safer alternatives to firewood, propane or natural gas space heaters.

Some manufacturers proclaim their heaters use about the same amount of electricity as a small coffee pot, which may sound really good. Others say their heater only uses 15 cents per hour, which may also sound good. The truth is, on a cold winter day, electric heaters cost about \$3.60 per day or \$108 per month to heat one room if the unit is running 24/7. Propane and natural gas units, which have more volatile fuel costs, can cost even more to operate.

Many find these facts quite a shock to their wallet. But, there is an affordable solution to home comfort and manageable utility bills. That solution is proper energy efficiency construction and a properly installed heat pump or geothermal system. I can heat two and a half rooms with a heat pump for \$2 a day, and with geothermal, I could heat five rooms for \$2 per day. At a new house built to our energy standards, we could heat about 3,000 square feet for \$2 per day.

It is not my intent to suggest that you buy or not buy a room heater, because that is none of my business. I just want you to know the facts. Generally speaking, the only time that I think it is feasible to use an individual room heater is when one simply can't afford to heat the whole house. As always, feel free to call me if you have questions @ 501-653-7931, and for more energy savings tips, visit www.SmartEnergyTips.org. Happy Thanksgiving to you all. *

Doug Rye, a licensed architect living in Saline County and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show, works as a consultant for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas to promote energy efficiency to cooperative members statewide. To order Doug's video or ask energy efficiency-related questions, call Doug at 1-501-653-7931. More energy-efficiency tips, as well as Doug's columns, can also be found at www.smartenergytips.org.



Member Trading Post

Please have your free ads submitted to MJM before the 10th of each month in order for it to be published in the next "Along The Lines" issue. Each ad will run for 2 months unless otherwise notified to be removed. To maintain a rotation of new items, ads will be limited to be published in only two issues. Thank you.

FOR SALE: Reconditioned Bundy clarinet with hard case. 217-436-2475

FOR SALE: Old English Mastiff male puppies. \$500-750 each. 217-306-6916

FOR SALE: Cobalt in bed aluminum tool box. \$100. 217-556-4833

FOR SALE: Oliver "770" Tractor – gas, N.F., recent paint, runs great. *** Case 7' – 3PT Chisel Plow. *** J.D. Model 350, 9' sycle bar mower, 3PT *** Woods 3PT, 5' Finish Mower. *** Heavy Duty, all steal work bench. *** 10 Sections of 12' long wood bowling lanes \$125 each. *** 1975 Suzuki R.V. 90 Trail Scooter, excellent condition. 217-473-1662

FOR SALE: House on two (2) acres and foundation on two (2) acres on Staunton Lake. Selling both properties together. Asking \$157,900. 217-999-2603

FOR SALE: 2.9 acres of timber with secluded 3 bedroom modular home. Includes 2 baths, fireplace, and utility shed. Located 4 miles between 2 towns across from Staunton Lake. \$120,000. 217-999-5207

FOR SALE: Recently logged, tree top firewood. Near Lake Catatoga in Plainview. Easy to get to, cut and load. \$30 per load. 217-370-2659 or 217-370-2679

FOR SALE: Premium seasoned oak firewood. Pick up between 8am and 6pm. 618-372-3443

FOR SALE: AKC German Sheppard puppies, black/tan or all black, and micro-chipped. Parents on premises. 618-467-2004 or 618-792-5173

FOR RENT: Hillsboro ranch home on 5.6 acres with 3 bedrooms, several bathrooms, basement, living room, 2 fireplaces, front porch and patio. Also offers 28x28 shop, 10x10 shed and 48 X 70 barn. 217-825-5418

FOR SALE: Complete daybed. \$120 *** Solitary Curio Cabinet w/lights and five shelves, like new. \$400 *** 8ft ivory couch & chair. \$150 *** Light two-toned maple table and 6 chairs with extra leaf, very good condition. \$400 *** Green recliner. \$35 *** 80 ft. chain link fence, metal posts and gates \$50. 217-825-5418

FOR SALE: Dark cherry queen bedroom outfit. Includes bed/mattress, headboard, frame, large and small dresser with mirror. \$125. 217-825-5418

FOR SALE: 36" glass gas cook top with 5 burners, like new. Best offer. *** Professional shampoo bowl and cabinet with chair. Best offer. 217-854-3400

FOR SALE: Canaries. \$35 each or \$125 for all. 618-372-3227

FOR SALE: Chihuahua puppies born 10-11-11. 2 males and 1 female. Will be ready to go to new home after December 6th. Not registered. \$100 for female and \$75 for males. Half down will hold your pick until Christmas. Puppies will be up to date on shots and worming before December 6. 217-370-2309

FOR SALE: Pair of suitcase style tractor weights. \$50. 618-635-2391

FOR SALE: Walk behind brush hog with 6.5hp motor. Good condition. \$350. 217-854-3301

FOR SALE: King Size Comforter Set (plum, sage green, cream) includes: King comforter, 2 King pillow shams, bed skirt, 2 purple pillows that are 15 1/2" square, 2 purple pillows with sage green sheen, one 17" square and one 11" X 16" oblong. Comforter is 89" wide X 100" long. Also includes is a picture with sage greens, plums, and cream colors, it measures 30 1/2" X 36 1/2" tall. Asking \$125. Goldielocks0310@gmail.com

FOR SALE: Elantra Bath set – New in box. (Chrome Pearl & Nickel finish) One 18" towel bar, towel ring holder and toilet paper holder. Matching set. Asking \$30. Goldielocks0310@gmail.com

FOR SALE: Complete set of Builder's house plans. Popular, professional builder. Plan is 2,270 sq. ft ranch style home. Open floor plan,

split bedrooms. Asking \$600. Goldielocks0310@gmail.com

FOR SALE: RCA console TV 32" \$50. 6' Solid Oak entertainment center \$275. Moving with several other items available for sale. 217-825-5418

FOR SALE: Brick lined wood stove. \$300. Honeywell brand. 618-836-7545

FOR SALE: 15 ft. Crustbuster drill, markers, good condition, always shedded. \$4,000 OBO. 217-248-8621

FOR SALE: Ford grain truck. 14 ft. bed with hoist, 429 motor, and air brakes. Good condition. \$3,000 OBO. 217-248-8621

FOR SALE: Three pieces of furniture (loveseat, two chairs and one recliner) with an area rug and four curtains to match, all for \$350 OBO. *** Remote control gas car RC. Like new. Makes a great Christmas present. \$125. *** Old J.D. lawn mower with good parts – newer bagger and 8 horse Briggs & Stratton motor with vertical shaft. \$125. 618-836-7412

FOR SALE: 33" Maytag side-by-side refrigerator, like new. \$375. *** Maytag upright freezers. \$250. 618-278-4724

FOR SALE: Melaleuca book "A Legacy of Wellness." Originally \$72, asking \$50 OBO. New. 618-670-1109

October Outages

10/07/11 - 4:23 A.M.

Witt, Tree on line, Off 3 hours

10/15/11 - 4:28 P.M.

Jerseyville, Tractor hit pole, Off 3 hours

10/19/11 - 5:44 A.M.

Witt, Pole top caught on fire, Off 2 hours

10/23/11 - 12:29 P.M.

Bunker Hill, Tree on line, Off 3 hours

10/24/11 - 4:41 P.M.

Shaws Point, Machinery hit guy wire, Off 1 hour