Thank you so much for your generous donation of $300.00 to the Schuyler County Food Basket. The volunteers of the Schuyler County Food Basket, along with the help of many charitable people like you, serve approximately 150 less fortunate families every month throughout the Schuyler County area. Donations such as yours will allow this service to continue. Thank you again for your generosity.

Ron Herr, President
Schuyler County Food Basket

On behalf of the members of St. Peter’s Lutheran Church of Lost Prairie, I wish to thank the Adams Electric Cooperative for the gift of $500 to be placed in the fund for the construction of a ramp at the entrance of our church – a gift made possible by the Penny Power Grant. It was our pleasure to have you personally present the gift to us at the morning worship on Sunday, September 7th, and stay for the fellowship hour following the service. Sincerely yours,

Pastor Ron Graham,
St. Peter’s Lutheran Church of Lost Prairie

Thank you so much for your generous donation of $270. This will allow the Special Education Department to purchase a digital camera and printer. These tools will allow teachers to create a personal book for our beginning readers. It will also allow our students to have a visual representation when writing.

Thanks again,
Kristen Kendrick, Director of Special Education
Quincy Public Schools

On February 17, 2009, television stations across the U.S. will no longer carry the analog signals. If you’re using one of the more than 30 million analog televisions that still rely on the analog signal, you plan to purchase a converter box and you have an existing antenna that has to be changed, please follow these safety guidelines:

- Locate and avoid power lines and other wires in the work area.
- Do not climb on a wet or icy roof.
- Do not attempt high installations on windy days.
- Do not climb on roofs that have curled or worn shingles. Old shingles break easily or pull out.
- Do not climb onto a roof when there is no one else around.

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Kristen Kendrick, Director of Special Education
Quincy Public Schools
Graduating Soon?

Looking for a way to pay for college? Consider an IEC Memorial Scholarship available for Illinois high school seniors.

Seven scholarships for 2009 will be awarded through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Each scholarship will be worth $1,250.00

- 4 scholarships are available for the sons/daughters of Illinois cooperative members for any two or four year accredited college in the United States.
- 1 scholarship is reserved for the son/daughter of an Illinois cooperative employee/director for any school in the United States.
- 2 scholarships available for the son/daughter of an Illinois cooperative member, employee, or director for an Illinois community college.

For more information or to receive an application by mail, contact Adams Electric Cooperative at (217) 593-7701 or (800) 232-4797. Or, send us an email at: ldotson@adams.net.

Deadline to enter: December 31, 2008

Applicants will be judged on grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay.

Win trip to DC!

High School Sophomores & Juniors
Adams Electric Cooperative is sponsoring its 50th Annual Youth to Washington Tour and Illinois Rural Electric and Telephone Cooperative Youth Day in Springfield.

Through the years, this program has enabled over 100 young leaders (high school sophomores and juniors) to learn about and observe state and federal governments.

On Wednesday, April 1, Adams Electric and Adams Telephone will sponsor up to 34 area students (20 representing Adams Electric and 14 representing Adams Telephone) at Youth Day in Springfield. Our group will meet with students from across the state and will enjoy an all-expense paid tour of historical sites, including a visit to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

At the conclusion of Youth Day, two winners will be selected to represent each cooperative for a week-long all-expense paid tour of Washington, D.C. One of them could be you!

Mark these important dates on your calendar:
Applications Due: February 20
Youth Day in Springfield: April 1
Youth to Washington Tour: June 12-19

Download an application at www.adamselectric.coop or Call Adams Electric for your application (217) 593-7701

Come see what your wish list is missing...

20th & Broadway,
Quincy
Mon - Fri: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sat: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Energy Efficiency 101: From the Ground Up
Lesson 3: More Cold Floors
by Doug Rye, the “Doctor of Energy Efficiency - the King of Caulk and Talk”

Yep, I told you so. It does get cold in the winter. And yes, I do now wear shoes and socks when I go outside to get our newspapers. No more bare feet until next summer.

In last month’s column, we talked about cold floors and what to do about them if your house is built on a slab. This month, we will focus our attention on houses that have crawl spaces or basements.

Here’s a real simple fact for starters. If your crawl space or basement is never cold, the floor above is never cold. The way to keep a basement warm in the winter is very simple. Just insulate the basement wall and add a little heat to the basement. In nearly every case, it costs very little to heat and cool an insulated basement.

For insulation, I prefer placing two by four studs on the basement wall, just like the exterior wall of the house. Then, spray cellulose or foam insulation between the studs. The basement is now well insulated and can easily be finished into living space in the future. Warmer basement equals warmer feet.

If your house has a crawl space, we prefer to treat it much like a basement that is not very tall. Again, our intent is to keep the crawl space from ever being cold. The way to accomplish this is to totally cover the ground with heavy plastic, close the foundation vents and insulate the foundation wall. This will prevent cold exterior air from getting under the house. As a result, the crawl space will probably be warmer as the heat from the house and heat from your ductwork (if the ductwork is located under your house), may warm that area several degrees. The foundation wall can be insulated with sprayed cellulose, sprayed foam, or foam-board panels. This solution often makes a crawl space drier and can solve mold and mildew problems.

While many in our country agree with what I’ve just written, there are some who don’t. Some codes won’t allow this and there are even pest exterminators who won’t offer termite contracts if your crawl spaces are sealed. Therefore, you should be absolutely certain that your codes and pest exterminator will allow this as a solution.

Please note: If your crawl space ever has standing water, you must solve the water problem before sealing the crawl space. If there are any gas lines or gas appliances in the crawl space, careful consideration must be given to ensure there is adequate combustion air.

Many thousands of homes now have “sealed” crawl spaces (with termite contracts), including my house. Those houses have lower utility bills and the occupants have warmer feet. In fact, I feel better already just thinking about it. See you next month.

Disconnecting Air-Conditioners
AMR meters must have power to the meter; otherwise, the Cooperative’s system reads the meter as having a problem. If you disconnect your air conditioner in the winter, please use the switch outside that is mounted on the condensing unit. Do not turn off your air conditioner at the breaker. Doing so requires the Co-op to send an employee to check the meter. If you have questions, call the engineering department at: (217) 593-7701 or (800) 232-4797
Ooos and ahhs come from little voices behind us. “Look at that!,” we hear. “Ooo! Wooow!” A wonderous light show will stamp its place in their memories forever. The Avenue of Lights in Quincy is a holiday tradition for many. It’s a show for the young and the young at heart.

It all started as a function of the Chamber of Commerce. After operating under the Chamber of Commerce for five years, Avenue of Lights, Inc., a non-profit group, was formed. This season marks the tenth anniversary for the event.

About 25 displays decorated Moorman Park in 1998. Today, the light show has grown to nearly 75 complete displays, about 1,000 individual pieces or MILLIONS of lights. “One display called the ‘Pepsi Little Peepers’ is made up of about 18 different pieces, yet a tunnel only counts as one piece,” explains John Groves, a board member for the Avenue of Lights.

Existing displays are available for sponsoring and custom displays are built in the spring. Designs do not have to be Christmas-related but they like to see “whimsical.” For instance, Cinderella, her palace and pumpkin carriage are not Christmas-related. The dinosaurs aren’t either but they both appeal to the kid in all of us.

Board member Linda Groves is the artisan of the group. Sponsors come to her with a concept and she lays it out on paper. Board members George Effrein and Bob Scott enlarge Linda’s design and build it to scale.

“We’ve purchased some of our displays from other parks that have gone out of business. Some displays have come from Columbia, Missouri, some from a park near Branson in Kimberling City, Missouri and others from Tennessee,” says John. “You really only need one Santa and reindeer. We try to add displays that will compliment the ones we already possess. A large holly tunnel was purchased last season. To build something like that would have tied up our resources for three years,” explains John.

Since the holly tunnel required more attention, the group decided to leave out the flashing tunnel last year. Now that they are familiar with setting up the holly tunnel, construction will go faster and the flashing light tunnel will reappear this year. “We’ve had a lot of requests to bring that one back. We’ll have all four tunnels this time. Instead of two 100-ft tunnels at the entrance and exit this year, we’re combining that tunnel into one 200-ft. tunnel at the exit,” says John.

Other displays which have appeared in previous years have been repaired and will reappear this year. Expect new displays sponsored by Heintz Lighting Center and Quincy Compressor Division.

The first week of October, workers and volunteers begin unloading, rebulbing and...
repairing displays. To build a light show two miles long takes over 2,500 man hours. The Clayton Work Camp provides the majority of the labor to construct the massive display. The Clayton Work Camp, Western Illinois Correctional Facility and the Illinois Department of Corrections, are critical to the project. “Without them, this project does not exist,” said Groves.

Along with building displays in the spring, Bob Scott and George Effrein are also heavily involved in the electrical work and construction process.

Groves and one of the major volunteers, Arlo Junk, spend numerous hours coordinating the project at Moorman Park. John says his wife, Linda, was a co-chair of the original Avenue of Lights. “I was drafted,” says John.

Mary Effrein, at the Chamber of Commerce, lines up the volunteers and coordinates the crews who work the ticket booth and control traffic. She also helps generate donations which help fund the project.

About 30-35 non-profit groups are paid to operate the ticket booth. It takes a minimum of six to eight people per night, ten on a busy night to operate the park. “We take tickets four cars at a time,” explains John. That keeps the operation running smoothly.

As an electric utility, we had to ask, “What does it cost to run all of these lights over the entire season?” John’s response, “About seven to eight thousand dollars. Last year, we saved a lot of money because we were upgrading some transformers. While that was going on, we didn’t have time to test all the lights like we normally do. We didn’t really turn everything on until the first night we were open.” (Editor’s note: The park is served by AmerenCIPS who also sponsors a display at the show.)

Less and less incandescents are being used as more rope lights are introduced. “The rope lights are cheaper to run,” explains John.

Everyone has their favorites, but the most popular displays seem to be the Scotties Skateland caterpillar which is a 3-dimensional display and the 280-foot electronic flashing light tunnel. “Both of those capture a lot of attention,” says John. He adds, “There isn’t anything out there I don’t like.”

The Avenue of Lights runs from Thanksgiving through New Year’s Day every year. The cost is $7/car load. A special bus night is planned for December 7 and the cost will be $50/bus.

The board of directors of Avenue of Lights, Inc. includes Mariann Barnard, George Effrein, Mary Effrein, John Groves, Linda Groves, Ginny Gully, Frank Musholt, and Bob Scott. The board of directors thanks all of their volunteers for their dedication to the project.

For more information on volunteering, contact board member Mary Effrein at the Chamber of Commerce at (217) 222-2222. For information on sponsoring a display, contact John Groves at (217) 222-3311.

In The News...
Adams Electric Returning $285,000 in Capital Credits

Members of cooperatives pay for service at cost and share in the annual margins by earning capital credits. In other types of businesses, such as investor-owned utilities, stockholders receive these funds in the form of dividends. Capital credits from Adams Electric Cooperative are earned in proportion to the amount of electricity used. Distribution of capital credits is determined by the financial condition of the Cooperative with the goal of returning funds within a 25-30 year retirement cycle.

The Adams Electric Cooperative Board of Directors authorized the distribution of capital credits from 1981 of approximately $285,000. All capital credits from 1939 through 1981 have been repaid. The entire amount of capital credits from 1939 through 1981 totaled over $3,352,000. Capital credit checks will be mailed in December. If you are a member of Adams Electric Cooperative in 1981 and your capital credit total that year was $25 or more, you will receive a mailed refund check. If you are a current member and your amount was less than $25, the amount will be credited to your January electric bill (December usage).

Adams Electric Cooperative offers the option of returning capital credits to the estates of deceased members. In this case, capital credits from 1982 through 2007 can be advanced on a seven percent (7%), 25-year discounted basis. This policy allows estates to be closed and is intended to prevent the confusion associated with future capital credit payments to the estate. If a member is deceased, and capital credits have not been retired, checks for 1981 will be mailed to the estate. For information on the settlement of capital credits for estates, call the office at 1-800-322-4797.

If you know a member of Adams Electric Cooperative from 1981 who has since moved off Cooperative lines, remind them to notify the Cooperative of their new location.

The Penny Power Grant Review Committee met on October 13th and approved a grant. A total of $64,850 was granted to the following groups:

- Trinity Lutheran Church - $2,500 for educational programs
- Missouri Tourism - $2,500 for tourism promotions
- Paloma Home and Community Building - $12,000 for grants to area groups and organizations
- PrairieVille School - $2,500 for donations to local organizations
- North Adams Nursing Home - $1,000 for commercial stove and fryer
- Paloma Home and Community Education - $350 for Bunn coffee pot for Paloma Community Building
- Seymour High School - $2,500 for improvements to baseball diamond
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- North Adams Nursing Home - $1,000 for commercial stove and fryer

The Latest from Penny Power
Adams Electric Representatives Further Their Education

Today’s electric utility environment imposes new demands on electric cooperative directors, particularly increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a working knowledge of the cooperative principles. Adams Electric Cooperative has a commitment to work through Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative and NRECA to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of their electric cooperative consumer-owners.

Adams Electric General Manager Jim Thompson, along with directors Jim Benz of Quincy, Alan Acheson of Rushville, George Schneider of Liberty, Mike Tenhouse of Coatsburg, and John Kestner of Payson attended the NRECA Region V meeting. The meeting is the second in a series of seven 2008 Regional Meetings convened by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The Regionals continue the association’s grassroots policy-making process, which begins at the local co-op level and culminates at NRECA’s Annual Meeting to be held February 11-18, 2009.

NRECA represents the nation’s more than 900 private, consumer-owned electric cooperatives, which provide electric service to more than 40 million people in 47 states. Adams Electric Cooperative serves more than 8,180 members over 2,191 miles of line in parts of Adams, Brown, Hancock, McDonough, Pike and Schuyler counties. Represented at the meeting were electric co-ops from Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois.
Easy Popcorn Balls  
*Submitted by Dorothy Welty*

- 1 cup unpopped popcorn
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup white syrup
- 1 box jello (any flavor)

Pop the popcorn, put it into a large bowl. Cook sugar, syrup and jello until it comes to a good boil. Pour over popped corn. Stir until popcorn is well coated. Form into balls. Wrap each ball in Saran wrap.

Peanut Butter Balls  
*Submitted by Connie Black*

- 1 lb. powdered sugar
- 1 cup plus 2 Tbsp. peanut butter
- 1 1/2 sticks butter or margarine

Chop the nuts up into small pieces. Mix all ingredients together. Form into balls. Roll in nuts. Wrap in wax paper.

Maple Nut Tea Ring  
*Submitted by Nancy Boone*

- 4 cups sifted flour
- 1 pkg. fast acting yeast
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup solid shortening or butter
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. maple flavoring
- 2 eggs (beaten)

Mix flour, yeast and salt. Set aside. Melt shortening, add milk and sugar. Heat to nice and warm but NOT hot. Add maple flavoring and beaten eggs. Mix flour mixture and milk mixture together until well blended. Cover and let rise until double in size, approx. 2 hours. Divide into 3 balls. Roll out each ball to fit a 12 inch pizza pan (not quite to the edge allowing room to rise). Spread each circle with melted butter and sprinkle with cinnamon sugar mixture (1 cup sugar to 1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon), and chopped English walnuts, placing one circle on top of the other, ending up with cinnamon sugar and nuts on top. Set a glass or biscuit cutter in the center. Using scissors, cut up to the glass or biscuit cutter 12 equal pie shaped wedges. Take each wedge and twist 2 full (360 degrees) turns. Cover with greased wax paper and let rise 30-45 minutes in a warm place. Bake 350 degrees for approximately 25-30 minutes. Ovens vary. When cool, drizzle with powdered sugar icing to which you have added 1/2 to 1 tsp. maple flavoring. If you like more icing, make a firmer icing. Enjoy! Good for breakfast or anytime.

Monkey Bread  
*Submitted by Bob Barry*

- 3 cans biscuits
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. cinnamon

**Topping:**
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 stick oleo


Cranberry Salad  
*Submitted by Mrs. Joe Robinson*

- 1 pkg. cranberries
- 1 sm. can crushed pineapple, drained
- 1/2 cup celery
- 2 medium apples
- 2 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup nuts
- 1 orange
- 1 pkg. red jello


### Adams Electric Cooperative Schedule of Fees
**Effective January 1, 2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Regular Working Hrs.</th>
<th>Sat. &amp; Weekday Nights</th>
<th>Sun. &amp; Holidays</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Collection Fee</td>
<td>$55.00</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delinquent Connect Fee</td>
<td>$55.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delinquent Reconnect Trip Fee</td>
<td>$55.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delinquent Trip Fee</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Returned Check Fee</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trouble Call Fees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal Trouble Calls</td>
<td>$55.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meter Loop Trouble Calls</td>
<td>$55.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(All Breakers or Meter Loop Repairs)</td>
<td>$55.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meter Testing Deposit Fee</td>
<td>$55.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disconnect Fee</td>
<td>$25.00*</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connect Fee</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reconnect Fee (Within 12 months)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Phase (Residential)</td>
<td>$65.00</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Phase</td>
<td>$95.00</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* A disconnect fee will be charged when the Cooperative must physically remove a meter or temporarily disconnect service. There is no charge to transfer a service.

** The Cooperative must maintain lines and equipment to the meter even when the service is inactive. This increase reflects a facility charge to maintain an inactive service.

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**Do you use a space heater?**

Space heaters can cause fires and injuries if not used properly. Keep these things in mind:

- Make sure your space heater bears the logo of a certified testing organization.
- Keep the heater at least 3 ft. away from bedding, clothing, draperies, furniture, rugs or other combustible materials.
- Keep the heater away from water.
- Never use it in a room where children are unsupervised.
- Space heaters are meant to supply supplemental heat. Don’t use them to warm bedding, cook food, dry clothing or thaw pipes.
- Turn off the space heater and unplug it when not in use.
December Calendar of Events

10th Annual Teen Gingerbread House Competition Dec. 6 (2-4:30pm), Quincy Public Library, Library Annex, 515 York. Do you love gingerbread houses & gingerbread men? Teens can build gingerbread structures & be judged in the following categories: most traditional, most original & most creative. All entries will be displayed in the 2nd Floor Lobby during the month of December. Register by calling (217) 223-1309.

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Holly Jolly Christmas Party Dec. 19 (10-10:45am), Quincy Public Library. Enjoy traditional tales w/candy cane twists! Sugar plum songs will dance in your head & get you up off your feet. A holiday skit will even convince SANTA to take a trip & visit this party! Children can tell Santa their Christmas wishes and pose for pictures before receiving a special gift from Santa’s Workshop. Designed for birth thru pre-school-aged children, however all are welcome. Call (217) 223-1309 to register.

Symphony of Trees Dec. 4, 6-7 (6-8pm), 16th & Maine, Quincy. Museum children’s event. Stories in front of the fireplace, activities. (217) 224-7609

The Bethlehem Experience Dec. 5-7 (5-8pm), 48th & Maine St., Quincy. Bring the entire family to this outdoor, live portrayal of the story of Christmas. Free admission, refreshments served. (217) 224-6374

Christmas at the Mill Dec. 6 (9am), Prairie Mills Windmill, Golden. Christmas celebration featuring crafts, lunch w/Santa, bake sale & candle light house tour. (217) 696-2514 www.goldenwindmill.org

Jingle Bell Run/Walk Dec. 6 (10am), Quincy Mall. Fundraiser for Arthritis Foundation. (217) 225-3286

Avenue of Lights Nov. 27-Jan. 1 (6-9:30pm), Waverly/Mapomar Park, N. 36th St., Quincy, 2-miles of animated lights. $7/Vehicle. (217) 222-7980

Calendar of Events

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Quincy Art Center Exhibit Opening Jan. 5 - Feb. 13, Quincy Art Center, 1515 Jersey, Quincy. The Blacksmith’s Art: The Legacy of SIU Carbondale & Civil War Era Photography from the Dempsey Collection. (217) 223-5900

RV & Camping Show Jan. 24 & 25 (9am-8pm), Oakley Lindsay Center, Quincy. Anything you need for leisure travel & camping. $5/adults, $1/ages 7-12, 6 & under free. (217) 223-1000

Great River Artisans First Annual Show & Sale Dec. 6 (10am-6pm), Quincy Women’s City Club, 1530 Main, Quincy. Wearable & decorative art by highly skilled artisans. (217) 224-7609

Ornament Workshop Dec. 6 (10-11:30am), Quincy Public Library. Bring the entire family & join us in creating ornaments. Reservations requested. (217) 223-1309

The Sound of Music Dec. 4, 6-7, 16-20, Oakley Lindsay Center, Quincy. (217) 222-3209

The Bethlehem Experience Dec. 5-7 (5-8pm), 48th & Maine St., Quincy. Bring the entire family to this outdoor, live portrayal of the story of Christmas. Free admission, refreshments served. (217) 224-6374

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December 2008  •  Adams Outlet  •  15
Rules for Entering

Ornaments must be handmade by the entrant and prepared for hanging on the Cooperative’s Christmas tree in the lobby. There is no theme; just be creative!

Prize: One overall winner will be chosen from all entries received. Entries will be judged on creativity. Winner will receive a $30 gift card to Walmart.

Eligibility: The contest is open to all Adams Electric Cooperative members including their immediate family members (any age). One entry per person. Employees of Adams Electric Cooperative are not eligible.

Instructions for submitting entry: Please include your name, address, and daytime phone number on a sheet of paper separate from your entry. (Entries will be numbered for judging.) Entries will not be returned.

Please drop off your entry at:
Adams Electric Cooperative
located at 700 E. Wood St.

Or mail your entry to:
Ornament Contest
Adams Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 247
Camp Point, IL 62320

Deadline: Entries must be received no later than Friday, December 5, 2008.
Voting will be open December 8-11, 2008. Everyone, members, employees, children and adults are eligible to vote but you may vote only once.
Winner will be announced Friday, December 12.