



# Hi-Lites

*Hi-Lites is a monthly newsletter published for the members of Tri-County Electric Cooperative.*

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### Office Hours

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday  
(Salem Office closed from  
noon-1:00 p.m. each day)

## Board of Directors

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### Mission Statement

*To safely provide our member-owners with adequate and reliable electric service, superior customer service and innovative energy solutions, all at reasonable prices.*



*by Marcia Scott  
General Manager*

You may have heard about SmartHub, Tri-County Electric Cooperative's innovative tool for account management, but what can it do for you? SmartHub can help you take control of your electrical usage and your Tri-County Electric account like never before.

SmartHub has several features that make managing your account as easy as possible.

#### *SmartHub allows members to:*

- Pay bills immediately with secure online payments
- View monthly electrical usage and history, including daily kWh usage for all meters with AMI technology
- Manage account information directly and track payment history from mobile devices or the web
- Report an outage
- Sign-up to receive notifications via email or text messaging concerning activity on your account

Whether through the web, your smartphone, or tablet (Android or iOS), you will be able to pay

your bill, view your electricity use, contact customer service and much more.

As soon as you log in, you will be able to view your billing history and make a payment with just a couple of clicks... or taps, if you're using the app! You'll be able to see your current bill, along with bills from the previous month or even the previous summer, if you want to compare costs. Not only will you see your billing history, but you'll be able to view your actual electrical usage. You can see how your use is trending over time, which will allow you to take steps to reduce your consumption and lower your bill.

Making payments through SmartHub is fast and easy. The first time you make a payment either on your desktop or through your mobile device, you will be able to securely store your payment information for future transactions. The next time you need to pay your bill, it will only take a couple of clicks.

You'll also be able to manage your account notifications with SmartHub. By logging in to SmartHub on the Web, you'll be able to select how you want to be notified about your

[Download SmartHub](#) **1**



## Slow Cooker Apple Pie Filling

*This is perfect for eating with ice cream, oatmeal, pancakes, waffles, or even just plain with a spoon!*

### Ingredients

- 9 cups diced red apple
- 2 Tbsp. freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1 ½ cups water
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- 3 Tbsp. pure maple syrup
- 2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- ½ tsp. ground nutmeg

### Instructions

1. Add the diced apple to a slow cooker, and toss with the lemon juice.
2. Whisk together the remaining ingredients in a medium pot until smooth and the cornstarch has completely dissolved. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, for 5-8 minutes or until the mixture starts to thicken and has reduced by a third. Pour the mixture over the apples and mix.
3. Cover and cook the apples on HIGH heat for 3 ½ hours, gently stirring after every hour, or until the apples are extremely tender. Cool completely to room temperature in the slow cooker before transferring to airtight containers and refrigerating.

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### *Download Smarthub Continued*

bill, including email and text messaging. You will even be able to set usage thresholds so that you'll know when you're using more than you'd like and help you keep your electric bill as low as possible.

If you do need to drop off a payment or stop by our office, SmartHub can help you there as well. Use SmartHub's map feature on your GPS-enabled mobile device to find the closest branch or office location.

Reporting a power outage is also quick and easy from the SmartHub mobile app. There's no need to call the office, just let us know you've lost electricity with a few taps. You can also contact Tri-County Electric Cooperative with a request, a question, or for customer service. SmartHub's contact feature makes it quick and easy.

Want to get the latest news and information from

Tri-County Electric? Stay connected with us through SmartHub. With the SmartHub news feed, you'll get the latest news, updates and more from Tri-County Electric, all without leaving the app or the web page.

Access SmartHub by visiting [www.tricountycoop.com](http://www.tricountycoop.com) or by downloading the app on your mobile device through the Apple App Store (iPhone or iPad) or Google Play Marketplace (Android phone or tablet).

The cooperative is always looking for ways to better serve you, our members. SmartHub allows us to provide you with convenience and save you valuable time. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact us or stop in the office. We are eager to help you and excited to show you the latest and greatest technology to make your life easier.



Scan the QR Code with your smartphone to download the Smarthub app or visit: [Smarthubapp.com](http://Smarthubapp.com).



# Surge Protection

by Dennis Ivers, Director of Engineering

Protection from damage due to lightning can be accomplished to varying degrees of success.

The least expensive method of protection is to unplug all electronic devices such as phones, phone lines to modems, televisions, computers, etc. before lightning hits. The advantage to this approach is that it's basically free. The disadvantage lies in the fact that someone has to physically be at

the residence or business and be bothered with plugging and unplugging equipment every time a possible lightning storm blows through the area.

Another option of protection is to verify that the electrical service entrance, circuit wiring to individual outlets, phone service entrance, and cable service entrance is properly bonded to the ground. Many homeowners may be capable of this task, but it is easily

checked by a qualified electrician.

The next step of protection is surge suppressors. Many of us stop short of this step. It's highly advisable, that if the home owner or business has invested in entertainment electronics, computers or business equipment, that surge protection equipment be installed. Applications vary but for most homes, the equipment can be purchased for under \$500.00.

## Youth to Washington 2016

This year, Tri-County Electric Cooperative was represented by Madison Lewis of Waltonville (Waltonville High School), Allyson Lintker of Venedy (Okawville High School) and Joseph Partain of Iuka (Salem High School) during the annual "Youth to Washington" Tour, June 10-17. This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois since the late 1950s, is an introduction to our democratic form of government and cooperatives for rural youth.

The students met with US Congressman Mike Bost and John Shimkus, and US Senator Dick Durbin. They were among 64 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip. The Illinois students joined more than 1,691 students from across the country. In addition to the Capitol, they also visited

Gettysburg National Battlefield & Museum, Arlington National Cemetery, the Washington National Cathedral, several Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the World War II Memorial, memorials to Presidents Lincoln, Jefferson, Washington and Roosevelt, the National Archives, the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, the Newseum and a number of



*L-R: Madison Lewis, Allyson Lintker, US Senator Shimkus, and Joseph Partain*

other historical sites.

Sophomores, juniors and seniors whose homes are served by Tri-County Cooperative are eligible to participate in the annual program. To learn more about the "Youth to Washington" Tour, go to [www.youthtour.coop](http://www.youthtour.coop) or [www.facebook.com/ILYouthtoWashington](http://www.facebook.com/ILYouthtoWashington).



*L-R: Allyson Lintker, Madison Lewis, US Congressman Bost, and Joseph Partain*

# Sign up for **FREE** Children's Books Available through the United Way of South Central Illinois

The Imagination Library is a program originally launched by Dolly Parton in eastern Tennessee in 1996. The purpose of the program is to provide a free book each month to every child under the age of five. According to the program, 'by reading with your children during their preschool years, you are giving them the biggest boost toward a successful education they will ever get'.

With this program, each month a new, carefully selected book will be mailed directly to the child at their home. He/she can look forward to new and exciting reading adventures from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library until he/she turns five years old as long as they remain a resident of a county where the program is available.

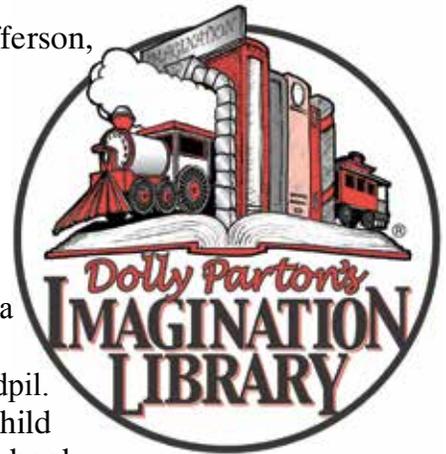
This program is brought to the area by the United Way of South Central Illinois. With the help of Tri-County Electric Cooperative's fundraising activities, this program is available to residents in the three counties served by the

cooperative: Jefferson, Marion and Washington.

If you would like to learn more about the program or how you can sponsor a child, visit

[www.uwsci.org/dpil](http://www.uwsci.org/dpil).

To enroll a child to receive a free book each month, simply contact the United Way of South Central Illinois office at 242-8000. Pamphlets are also available at Tri-County Electric Cooperative offices in Mount Vernon and Salem. Completed forms may also be returned to Tri-County Electric Cooperative with your next payment or mailed to: United Way of South Central Illinois; P.O. Box 711, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864.



**Dolly Parton's IMAGINATION LIBRARY Official Registration Form Privacy Statement:** This information will not be used for any purpose other than that related to the Imagination Library. PLEASE PRINT

1st Preschool Child's FULL Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Sex: M F Phone \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Preschool Child's FULL Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Sex: M F Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Home Address

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_, IL zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_, IL zip \_\_\_\_\_

(if different) address

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

This child is a resident of (circle one): Jefferson, Marion or Washington County, Illinois

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

**Tri-County Electric Cooperative offices will be closed on Monday, September 5th, 2016 in observance of Labor Day.**