

December 2002
Vol. 51, Number 12

Adams Outlet

News for Members of Adams Electric Cooperative, Camp Point, Illinois

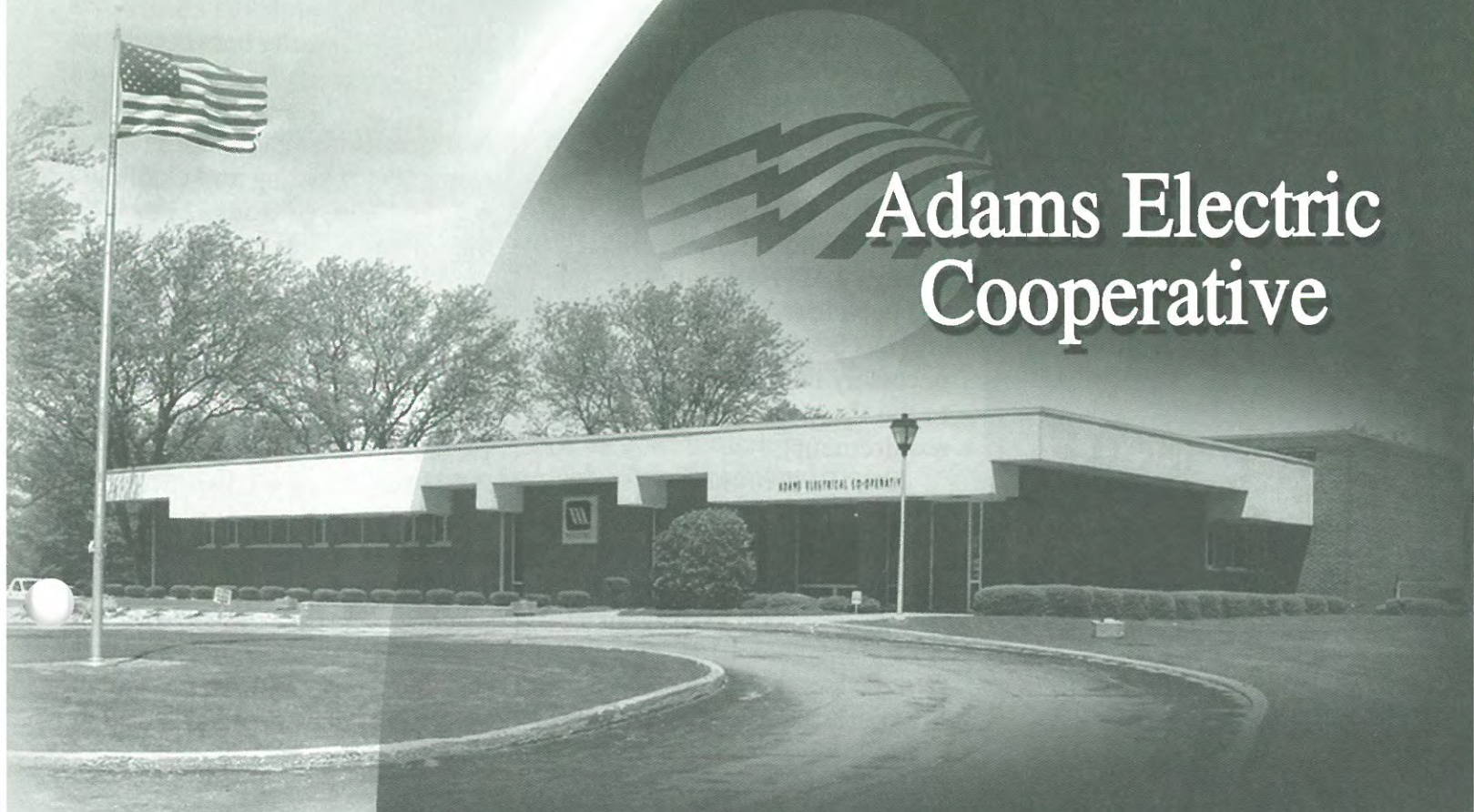
**Rates
Scheduled
to Increase
January 1.**

**Details on
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**Holiday Lighting
Safety
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**Appliances On Sale
at both locations
...page 14**

**Adams Electric
Cooperative**



Adams Outlet

www.adamselectriccoop.com

Office hours:
Monday-Friday
7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

To report an outage:
1-800-232-4797
Local calls dial direct:
217-593-7701

MISSION STATEMENT

*"Adams Electric
Cooperative is
committed to exceeding
the expectations of
those we serve!"*

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Editor
Laura Dotson



Board of Directors Approve Rate Increase

by Douglas Aeilts,
General Manager

The Board of Directors and Management have reviewed the Cooperative's past financial performance and evaluated various financial forecast models for the future. Part of the historical review includes a Cost-of-Service Study that determines whether each rate class is paying its fair-share of costs and rate-of-return to the Cooperative in comparison to all other rate classes.

After thoroughly reviewing the historical and projected financial data, the Board of Directors approved Management's recommendation to increase the Cooperative's rates by approximately 4% effective with the January 2003 billing cycle. Each rate schedule has been individually evaluated and has been adjusted as necessary to equitably contribute to the Cooperative's financial requirements.

Over 94% of the Cooperative's Members are billed under Rate Schedule A – General Single Phase. If your usage is 600 kWhs your bill will increase 4.1%. If your usage is less than 600 kWhs your percentage increase will be



higher and if your usage is more than 600 kWhs your percentage will be less. The Monthly Facility Charge, to have electric service available, for Rate Schedule A

is being increased from \$16 to \$22 while the energy charges are being reduced. The Cost-of-Service Study indicated

the Monthly Facility Charge should be \$30 per month.

The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) is being eliminated for Rate Schedule A and for most other rate schedules.

Similar

adjustments are being made to all rate schedules to ensure fairness and equity between all rates. Several rate schedules will increase more than 4%. For example, Rate Schedule CHC – Controlled Heating and Cooling will be increased from \$2 per month and 4¢ per kWh to \$4 per month and 4.6¢ per kWh.

The Cooperative's last two (2) rate schedule increases were in 1985 and 1996, 18 and 7 years ago respectively. Since 1996, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has increased over twenty percent (20%) versus this rate increase of approximately 4%. The Cooperative had a rate schedule decrease in 1997 and implemented the monthly PCA for January 1999-June 2000 and years 2001-2002. The PCA

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by approximately 4% effective
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was implemented to recover wholesale power costs directly related to high wholesale electric prices during 1999 and natural gas prices in 2001. Even with using the PCA, the Cooperative did not recover all of its increased wholesale power costs and this resulted in the Cooperative's equity ratio declining for the last four (4) years.

The Cooperative has experienced significant increases in other business related expenses such as postage (16%), gasoline (16%), diesel fuel (11%) and insurance (80%). Being an electric utility, our general liability insurance has soared during the last 18 months. Medical insurance has also been increasing rapidly just as it has been for everyone else. The Cooperative has significantly reduced its medical insurance coverage to reduce the annual increases in premium. As a result, the employees are experiencing significant additional out-of-pocket costs. Wages and benefits total less than 15% of the Cooperative's total expenses.

Over sixty percent (60%) of the Cooperative's expenses are directly related to wholesale power purchases. The Cooperative's power supplier, CCS/Soyland, has approved a new six (6) year power supply contract with Ameren Energy Marketing that will provide a stable price for wholesale power independent of the cost of natural gas or regional wholesale

electric prices.

It is the goal of the Board of Directors and Management to provide stability for your electric rates. The Cooperative offers many options to reduce your monthly electric bill, such as the controlled air conditioning rate, controlled water heater credits and time-of-day rates, etc.

Since 1997, the Cooperative has been systematically and aggressively controlling the trees and brush near our electric distribution lines. This maintenance program has significantly reduced the number of outages reported and increased the reliability of electric service but has also increased our expenses for right-of-way maintenance.

The Cooperative has been enjoying significant increases in annual energy sales for several years. The benefit of the increased energy sales is that the rate increase

being implemented is less than it would have been without the sales growth. It is anticipated that the energy sales will continue to increase for several years.

The Cooperative's employees work diligently every day

to control expenses. Everything from negotiating long-distance telephone rates, bidding for office supplies, working to obtain the lowest postage rates or contracting for maintenance services. The ultimate goal is to reduce our operating

expenses, or minimize the increases, while maintaining and improving our reliable electric service. It is a difficult challenge but a daily activity.

More information about the rate increase is provided in this Adams Outlet issue. If you still have questions or comments, please feel free to call or write me and I will be happy to respond to you.

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Since 1996, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has increased over twenty percent (20%) versus this rate increase of approximately 4%.



Rates Scheduled to Change

By how much?

Rates will increase an average of 4% depending on your rate schedule and your amount of usage. The facility charge is increasing from \$16 per month to \$22 per month for Rate Schedule A. The energy charges are being decreased.

When will the rates change?

Starting with the January billing cycle, a new rate will be in effect for nearly all rate schedules. Members with self-read meters will receive their new rate schedule booklet by the middle of January. Members with the AMR system do not have to calculate their bill, and therefore, will not receive a new rate schedule booklet.

How were the new rates determined?

The new rates were determined by your Board of Directors, the general manager and staff and several outside consultants after a complex study of wholesale power costs, demand and fixed costs. While knowing the total dollars of power cost for the Cooperative, all rate schedules were evaluated and the power cost was allocated

4 using the ratio of the number

of kilowatt-hours sold to each schedule divided by the total system kilowatt-hour sales. Therefore, each rate schedule reflects its fair share of the Cooperative's power costs. Some schedules will see a rate increase of more than 4% and others will see less. The more electricity you use, the proportionately less your increase will be. Fixed costs are divided among Members as a facility charge.

What is a facility charge?

Every Member pays for their electric usage based on their rate schedule. However, there are other costs of an electric utility besides electric usage that must be shared by all Members. Every Member pays a facility charge for fixed expenses including transformers, electric lines, equipment, insurance, billing costs and interest on loans, to name a few.

These fixed expenses do not change as more or less electricity is used. (If all fixed costs were included in the energy charges, some Members would be paying all or most of these costs which should be shared by all Members.) Therefore, a typical rate schedule consists of a facility charge to recover fixed costs and energy charges to recover variable costs.

The Cooperative's last Cost-

of-Service study indicated that the current facility charge of \$16 was not covering all of these fixed costs. By increasing the facility charge to \$22 per month, the Cooperative will bring all Members closer to paying the actual fixed costs of providing electricity.

What caused the increase?

The rising cost of general business expenses have influenced the need for a rate increase including postage, gasoline, diesel fuel and insurance. However, the new AMR (automatic meter reading) system did not cause the increase.

What can I do to lower my electric bill?

If you have electric heat, electric water heating and/or central air-conditioning, the Cooperative offers a CHC (controlled heating and cooling) rate. A separate meter can be installed to record your heating and cooling usage at a lower rate of only 4.6¢/kWh. There is an initial cost to install metering equipment and an additional \$4/month facility charge, but the savings can be substantial when compared to other heating fuels.

Another option the Cooperative offers is the CAC (controlled air-conditioning) rate. This rate is for Members who have central air-conditioning in their homes, but do not have electric heat. There is a one-time fee for meter installation and an additional \$4/month facility

charge. Air-conditioners on this rate are calculated at 6.6¢/kWh. Depending on your usage throughout the summer months, many Members find the upfront costs pay for themselves over one or two summers.

Members who have 30 gallon or larger electric water heaters

opt for the CWH (controlled water heating) rate. These Members will receive an \$8 credit on their electric bill.

Read your Adams Outlet every month. The Cooperative offers home weatherization advice, energy saving tips, as well as general usage information.

Every effort you make to save energy will add up.

If you have any questions about the rate changes or need some energy saving advice, give us a call at 1-800-232-4797.

We're here to help.

Schedule A

General Purpose Rate

New Rate Blocks

Price

Facility Charge	\$22.00
First 750	\$0.115
Next 750	\$0.105
Next 500	\$0.095
Over 2,000	\$0.080

kWh	Old Rate (includes tax)	New Rate (includes tax)	Difference
0	\$16.00	\$22.00	\$6.00
100	27.90	33.50	5.60
500	75.50	79.50	4.00
700	99.30	102.50	3.20
1,000	132.50	134.50	2.00
1,500	187.00	187.00	-
2,000	236.50	234.50	(2.00)
2,500	275.00	274.50	(0.50)
3,000	313.50	314.50	1.00
4,000	390.50	394.50	4.00
5,000	467.50	474.50	7.00

Schedule CAH

Controlled All Electric Farm Rate

New Rate Blocks

Price

Facility Charge	\$22.00
First 750	\$0.115
Next 750	\$0.105
Next 3,000	\$0.060
Over 4,500	\$0.070

kWh	Old Rate (includes tax)	New Rate (includes tax)	Difference
0	\$16.00	\$22.00	\$6.00
100	27.90	33.50	5.60
500	75.50	79.50	4.00
700	99.30	102.50	3.20
1,000	132.50	134.50	2.00
1,500	187.00	187.00	-
2,000	213.00	217.00	4.00
3,000	265.00	277.00	12.00
4,000	317.00	337.00	20.00
4,500	343.00	367.00	24.00
5,000	376.50	402.00	25.50

Notification:

Assignment of 2001 Margins

Assignments of 2001 margins to Members doing business with Adams Electric Cooperative have been calculated. A total of \$272,715 of margins has been allocated as capital credits for 2001. The Cooperative has calculated each Member's share of the margins and credited that amount to your capital credit account.

You do not have to calculate your allocation, the Cooperative has already done it. If you are interested in calculating your specific allocation, multiply your net electric bill in dollars (net =

gross bill less applicable utility tax) times the allocation factor (0.023522565).

This amount is only an accounting credit. It cannot be claimed at the present time nor can it be applied against your current electric bill.

The Cooperative has paid capital credits through 1977, so it will be some time before we will pay 2001 capital credits.

Please remember, you must be a Member and have service in your name to have capital credits assigned. If you are receiving

electric service in someone else's membership or the service is in the name of a deceased person, you will not receive capital credits. The capital credit check will always be issued in the name of the person on the membership, or the estate of a deceased Member.

If you have moved, please provide the Cooperative with your new address so we can send your future capital credit checks. Please contact Steve Jennings, manager of finance, if you have any questions.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

from all of us...



Douglas Aeilts
Mary Aden
Bill Alexander
Brian Anderson
Julia Barry
Joyce Bockhold
Norm Boone
Pat Boylen
Ed Covey
Mike DeWitt
Laura Dotson
Steve Fanning
Judie Flesner
Lyle Forsythe

Brenda Harms
Norm Henze
Joyce Hibbert
Kristi Ihrig
Steve Jennings
Angela Jockisch
Jim Kerr
Kevin Knight
Abe Lashbrook
Butch Likes
Larry Long
Joan Mixer
Tara Neisen
Gary Nelson

Mike Olson
Butch Passley
Denise Rensch
Debbie Rhea
Randy Rigg
Charlie Rossiter
Tom Schneider
Kay Simpson
Brad Smith
Roger Stegeman, Jr.
Kraig Street
Don Taylor
Jim Thompson
Eldon Woodman

Tips for a Bright, Safe Holiday Lighting Season

URBANA, IL – Holiday lighting has always been an enjoyable way to celebrate the season and beautify your home. If you're planning a holiday lighting display, Safe Electricity reminds you to avoid potential safety hazards as you place holiday lights.

"Lights on a tree or other places add so much to the festivity of the season, but they need to be checked and used properly," says Molly Hall, director of the Safe Electricity program. "We encourage everyone to take a few extra minutes to avoid the risk of electric shock or fire."

Keep these tips in mind when decorating with lights:

- Only use lights that have been safety tested and approved by Underwriters Laboratory (UL). Look for the UL label on the box and on each string.
- If you use a fresh-cut tree, frequently water it and place it away from heat sources, such as heat registers, fireplaces, radiators and televisions.
- Before plugging in the lights, check each string for broken sockets, frayed cords or faulty plugs. Replace damaged strings.

- Make sure extension cords are in good condition. Only use UL-approved cords that are rated to carry the electrical load you will connect to them.

- Keep electric cords away of high-traffic areas. Don't stretch them across a room where people can trip over them; likewise, don't hide them under rugs or carpets.

- Always unplug lights before going to bed or leaving your home.

- When decorating outdoors, only use lights and cords rated for outdoor use. Do not lay cords across sidewalks, decks or other walkways. Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Use a portable GFCI if your outdoor outlets don't have them.

- Do not attach cords or lights to metal objects.

"Checking the condition of electrical cords is very important. A frayed or cracked cord could cause a shock or fire," said Hall. "Likewise, an overloaded extension cord poses a fire hazard."

Whether decorating for the holidays or using extension cords

in general, read the label on both the cord and the appliances that are plugged into it to make sure the cord can handle the load. If it can't, change to a higher-rated cord or unplug some appliances.

While some people may use an extension cord to free outlet space over the holidays, remember that extension cords are meant for temporary, not permanent, use.

Safe Electricity is a statewide electrical safety public awareness program. The program was created by a coalition of nearly three dozen organizations including the University of Illinois, rural electric cooperatives, and investor-owned electric utilities throughout the state. All are members of the Illinois Electric Council, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting electric safety and efficiency.

Everyone is urged to heed the safety tips presented in Safe Electricity public service announcements and to visit www.SafeElectricity.org to learn more about being safe around electricity and related equipment.



Welcome to Adams Electric

The Board of Directors and employees welcome three new part-time employees to Adams Electric Cooperative. Angela Jockisch, Denise

Rensch and Tom Schneider joined us November 1, 2002, as appliance sales persons for the new Rushville Appliance Center. Their responsibilities

include selling appliances and service work and assisting in the daily operation of the Rushville Appliance Center.



Angela Jockisch

Angela Jockisch grew up in the Rushville area and graduated from Rushville High School. Angela and her husband Dewayne have two boys: Daryle,

age 14 and Davy, age 11. Angela began and continues to run the South Fulton Antique Tractor Club. She also enjoys raising and showing rabbits.



Denise Rensch

Denise Rensch comes to the Rushville Appliance Center after working for the Schuyler School District. Denise graduated from Rushville High School. She

keeps busy with crafts and raising her three children: Tyler, age 9, Wesley, age 7, and Harley, 20 months.



Tom Schneider

Tom Schneider graduated from the University of Illinois at Champaign with a degree in accounting. He served four years in the Air Force and retired from the USDA farm service agency of Mt. Sterling in 1999. Tom and his wife Nancy, have

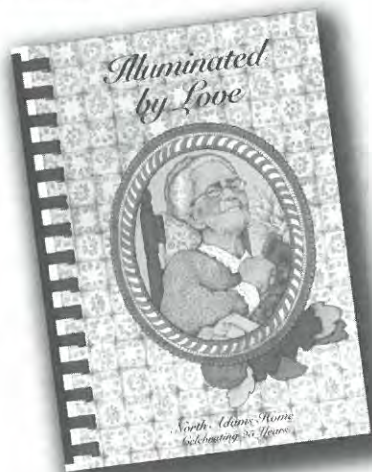
seven children: Edward, Theresa, John, Anne, Cathy, David and Elizabeth. In his spare time, he farms asparagus and blackberries and enjoys reading. He also has an interest in aviation stories and loves going to air shows.

Adams Electric Cooperative's **Country Kitchen**

Calling all area cooks!

If you have a favorite recipe that you would like to share with others and/or if your organization has a cookbook they would like highlighted in the Adams Outlet, please submit the recipes or cookbooks to: AEC, Attn: Laura Dotson, PO Box 247, Camp Point, IL 62320 Happy Cooking!

Following are sample recipes from the North Adams Home 25th Anniversary cookbook. Cookbooks are available for a donation of \$10.00 each. The proceeds made will support the residents' raised flowerbed project.



Contact:
North Adams Home, Inc.
2259 East 1100th Street
Mendon, IL 62351
(217)936-2137

Candy Bar Pie

Submitted by Renee Porter

- 1 Ready Crust chocolate pie crust
- 1 1/4 cups cold milk
- 2 pkgs. chocolate or vanilla flavor instant pudding and pie filling
- 1 tub frozen non-dairy whipped topping, thawed and divided
- 4 bars chocolate covered wafer candy bars

(Candy Bar Pie continued)

Cut candy into 1/4 inch pieces. Beat milk, pudding mixes and 1/2 of whipped topping in medium bowl with wire whisk for 1 minute or until thick. Reserve 1/4 cup of candy bars. Stir remaining candy into pudding mixture. Spoon mixture in crust. Spread evenly. Spread remaining whipped topping over pudding layer in crust. Sprinkle top with remaining candy. Serve immediately or refrigerate until ready to serve.

Diabetic Chocolate Chip Cookies

Submitted by Dianne Kircher

- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 9 indiv. pkgs. granulated sugar substitute
- 1/4 cup nuts, chopped (optional)
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup diet oleo
- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 1 1/4 tsp. vanilla
- 1/4 cup mini chocolate chips



Heat oven to 375 degrees. Sift flour, soda, salt. Set aside. Beat oleo, brown sugar, substitute sugar,

(Diabetic Cookies continued)

vanilla and egg until blended. Blend into flour. Mix well. Add chips and nuts. Drop on greased cookie sheet 1 inch apart. Bake 8 minutes.

Cottage Cheese Dill Bread

Submitted by Flossie Nutt

- 2 pkgs. active dry yeast
- 1/2 cup warm water
- 2 tsp. sugar
- 2 cups creamed cottage cheese
- 2 T. minced onion
- 2 T. dill weed
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 2 tsp. salt
- 2 T. sugar
- 2 eggs
- 4 1/2 cups all-purpose flour (approximately)

Sprinkle yeast in warm water. Stir until blended. Stir in 2 teaspoons sugar. Set aside. Combine cottage cheese, onion, dill weed, baking powder, salt, 2 tablespoons sugar and eggs. Mix thoroughly. Add yeast. Mix well. Add flour to make stiff dough. Knead on lightly floured surface until smooth and elastic. Place dough in greased bowl. Turn to bring greased side up. Cover. Let rise in warm place until doubles in size. Punch down. Turn out onto lightly floured surface. Knead a few times. Divide into 2 equal portions. Shape into loaf in well greased 8x5x3 loaf pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Brush top with melted butter.



December

Calendar of Events

Festival of Trees

December
Courthouse
Rushville

Barry Christmas Home Tours & Festival of Lights

December 6
Downtown Barry
(217)285-2971

Holiday Walk

December 7 & 8
Nauvoo
(217)453-6648

Avenue of Lights

November 20 - January 2
Wavering-Moorman Park
Quincy
This 2-mile long animated
light festival comprised of
more than 2,000,000 lights
and over 30 displays is open
throughout the holiday
season.
(217)222-7980



Quincy Preserves Christmas Candlelight Tour

December 8
Tour four of Quincy's private
homes of architectural and/or
historical significance bedecked
in their holiday splendor. Price
is \$8 for advanced tickets and
\$10 at the door.
(217)222-3432

Carthage Christmas Open House

December 5
Carthage
The courthouse square
merchants kick off the holiday
shopping season with caroling,
courthouse tours, carriage
rides and special open house
savings. Lots of refreshments
are available. Register for
drawings too!
Call (217)357-3024 or visit
www.carthage-il.com for more
information.

Historic Quincy Business District Holiday Lighted Parade & Cookie Walk

December 6
Downtown Quincy
(217)228-8696

4-H Foundation Christmas Craft Show

December 7
Farm Bureau Building
1301 East Washington
Pittsfield
(217)285-2971



Christmas Dinner in Old Nauvoo

December 13 & 14
Nauvoo
(217)453-6648

NATIONAL NEWS

Wind Power Purchase

Electric Co-op Today

Corn Belt Power Co-op, Humboldt, Iowa, has agreed to purchase 11 MW of power for 20 years from the 98 MW Hancock County Wind Energy Center. FPL



Energy will construct, own and operate the project's 148 wind turbines. Dale Arends, the G&T's executive vice president and general manager, said, "This agreement supports our long-term objective of satisfying the needs of our member co-ops and the people they serve."

Nuclear As Renewable

Electric Co-op Today

The Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy is committing \$500,000 to fund projects that would produce hydrogen while also producing electricity. These types of projects could bring the nuclear industry under the definition of being a provider of renewable energy, according to published

reports. Hydrogen fuel technology is considered to be an up-and-coming type of renewable fuel, sources say.

Wind Energy

Electric Co-op Today

Arizona Electric Power Cooperative, Benson, Ariz., and Canada-based Western Wind Energy signed an agreement to explore building Arizona's first "wind farm" at AEPCO's Apache Generating Station near Cochise, about 65 miles east of Tucson. A feasibility study is



under way, which, if it yields positive results, would generate a total of 40 MW from as many as 40 windmill towers, and would provide electricity to 14,000 homes.

Protecting Ozone Layer

Electric Co-op Today

The Senate ratified two amendments to the Montreal Protocol to further protect the ozone

layer from chemicals that deplete it. One amendment would further restrict the production, trade and use of chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs. The other amendment would set trade and production controls on hydrochlorofluorocarbons.

Electricity Facts:

Did you know the dates of these electricity milestones in the United States?

1821 - 1st Electric Motor

1839 - 1st Fuel Cell

1883 - Transformer
Invented

1903 - 1st Electric
Vacuum Cleaner

1913 - 1st Electric
Refrigerator

1935 - 1st Night Baseball
Game in Major
Leagues



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Quincy • 224-2665 (COOL)
or 224-4328 (HEAT)
www.brueningheating.com



The Energy Star plan available to qualified buyers using the Bryant Comfort Card. Effective 4/29/02 the Annual Percentage rate was 13.5% (floor Rate) and may vary. The minimum Finance Charge is \$1.00. Offer provided by Green Tree Retail Services Bank, Inc.



A STAR IS BORN!



You may have seen the Energy Star® label on appliances or computers, but didn't realize what it meant! It stands for high-efficiency and energy savings. The Bryant Energy Star Heating and Cooling products offer some of the largest savings to consumers:

- Low Monthly Payments
 - No Money Down
 - Low, Fixed Interest Rates (13.5%) A.P.R.
- Call for details on the Energy Star® program and High Efficient Bryant Systems.

Photo-Ionization Module

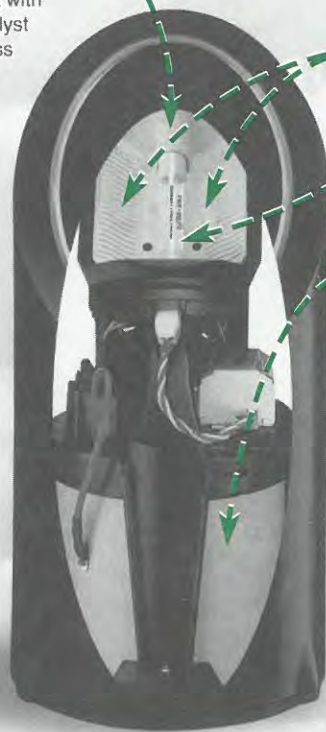
A photo-ionization reaction occurs when light energy from the ultraviolet (UV) lamp reacts with the tri-metallic catalyst. The light rays and ozone emitted from the UV lamp react with moisture in the air and the catalyst in an advanced oxidation process to form superoxide ions and hydroperoxide radicals. The treatment of your indoor air includes:

- Suppression of bacteria growth (bacteriostatic)
- Suppression of mold growth (mycostatic)
- Prevention of mold germination (antimicrobial)
- Control of odors

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- Reduction of airborne particulate matter
- Reduction of airborne microorganisms
- Neutralization of static charges within the house

Grow a Garden Heat & Cool Your Home



Grow energy along with your flower garden. Harness renewable energy from the earth with a geothermal energy system from Waterfurnace. Peters is the country's number one Waterfurnace dealer. Call today to learn more about this amazing technology that **saves energy and money!**

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- 20-25% More Efficient than Other Brands • Low Maintenance •
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Rushville Appliance Center
214 N. Congress • 217-322-6601

divisions of Adams Electric Cooperative

Ranges
as low as **\$385**

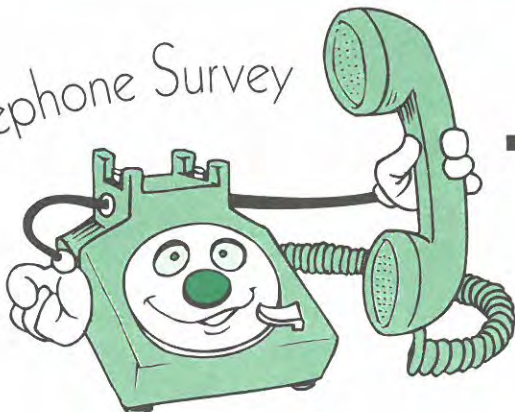
Dishwashers
as low as **\$419**

Refrigerators
as low as **\$829**

And More!

Sale ends 12-31-02

Telephone Survey



Satisfaction Development Systems of Utah was hired by Adams Electric Cooperative to perform a Member Satisfaction Telephone Survey.

Approximately 50 Members will be contacted randomly to perform a brief survey of the Cooperative. Information gathered will be held in confidence and will be used to see Member's perspectives of the Cooperative.

BUFORD WARD CHEVROLET

2003



Impala

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Buford Ward

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* Offer good on all orders placed in December 2002.

Mail coupon to: Tally McDonald, Alert Security, 700 E. Wood St., Camp Point, IL 62320

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4.6¢ /kWh

* A separate meter must be installed.
Call for more information.

1-800-232-4797



Adams Electric
Cooperative