

## McDonough Power Cooperative names new President and CEO

Our office will be closed on **July 4th** for Independence Day.

After months of conducting a nationwide search, McDonough Power Cooperative's Board of Directors has selected Mike Smith as the new President and CEO to replace Steve Epperson, who resigned at the end of 2010.

"We believe that we have found, in Mike, a leader who is not only very qualified, but will be committed to our membership and their needs: providing affordable and reliable electric service," said Mike Cox, Chairman of the Board of Directors.

For the past four years, Smith has been the Engineering and Operations Manager of McDonough Power. He began his cooperative career in 1996 at Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative in Vinita, OK as an electrical engineer. He furthered his career at Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative as engineering supervisor then manager of engineering and operations prior to accepting the engineering and operations manager position at McDonough Power. **532CW1030-900A**

Smith graduated in 1996 from the University of Arkansas with a Bachelors Degree in Electrical Engineering. He has also successfully completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association



Management Internship Program and is a registered professional engineer in Illinois as well as Oklahoma.

Smith added, "I am grateful for this opportunity and look forward to continuing to work with the Board of Directors and outstanding employees of McDonough Power to meet the needs of our members. I'm very excited to carry on the values of McDonough Power Cooperative."

### McDonough Power Cooperative 2011 Annual Meeting Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at The Crossing in Macomb

*Join us to find out what's going on at your cooperative and meet new President & CEO, Mike Smith.*

Registration begins at 6 p.m.  
Business meeting at 7 p.m.

Prize drawing at the end of the business meeting.  
You must be present to win.

Pork chop sandwiches, chips, cookies & soda – served 6–7 p.m.

Members attending will receive a \$10 bill credit

Visit our innovative display to find out what makes your home more energy efficient.



# McDonough Power Cooperative

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309-833-2101

[www.mcdonoughpower.com](http://www.mcdonoughpower.com)

Office hours:  
7 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Weekdays

## DIRECTORS

Michael Cox, Chairman

Steve Lynn, Vice Chairman

Steve Youngquist, Secretary

Stan Prox, Treasurer

Robert J. Dwyer

Steve Hall

Walter Lewis

Jeffrey Moore

Jerry Riggins

John D. McMillan, Attorney

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# Cooperative right-of-way maintenance to begin July 5

Several years ago McDonough Power Cooperative initiated a significant vegetation management program to control vegetation under and around its electrical equipment. This program includes cutting, trimming and spraying of vegetation that will interfere with electric service. The program is ongoing and necessary to deliver safe, low cost and reliable electricity to your homes and businesses. Since the inception of our program the cooperative has seen a considerable decrease in outages caused by trees and brush. **525HHS18-951A**

For the past few years McDonough Power Cooperative has contracted with our neighbor, Spoon River Electric Cooperative (SREC) to clear overgrown areas and spray sections previously cleared of vegetation to prevent re-growth. SREC personnel are licensed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture and are experienced in all aspects of tree pruning and herbicide application. Please refer to [www.mcdonoughpower.com](http://www.mcdonoughpower.com) for Material Safety Data Sheets concerning the herbicides that are to be used.

Where tree removal (clearing) is desired or necessary to protect your lines the whole tree will be taken down and cut up



for your disposal. In clearing right-of-way, machines will be used to shred brush and larger logs will be left along the tree line. During tree pruning in accessible locations, tree branches will be chipped and larger wood will be cut into logs and left for your disposal. All tree pruning will be done in accordance with American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A300 (part 11-2001) pruning standards. Right-of-way clearance is 15' on each side of the power line.

The 2011 right-of-way work plan is as follows (see map on the opposite page):

- July 5 – spray (herbicide) begins in the Industry and Fandon areas
- Mid to late July – spot spraying in the Monmouth, Cameron and Ponemah areas
- August 1 – clearing begins in the areas of Fandon, Colchester, South Macomb and North Macomb as well as spot clearing in the Industry area


If you have questions or concerns regarding specific trees or chemical use on your property please contact McDonough Power at (309) 833-2101 or visit our website at [www.mcdonoughpower.com](http://www.mcdonoughpower.com).

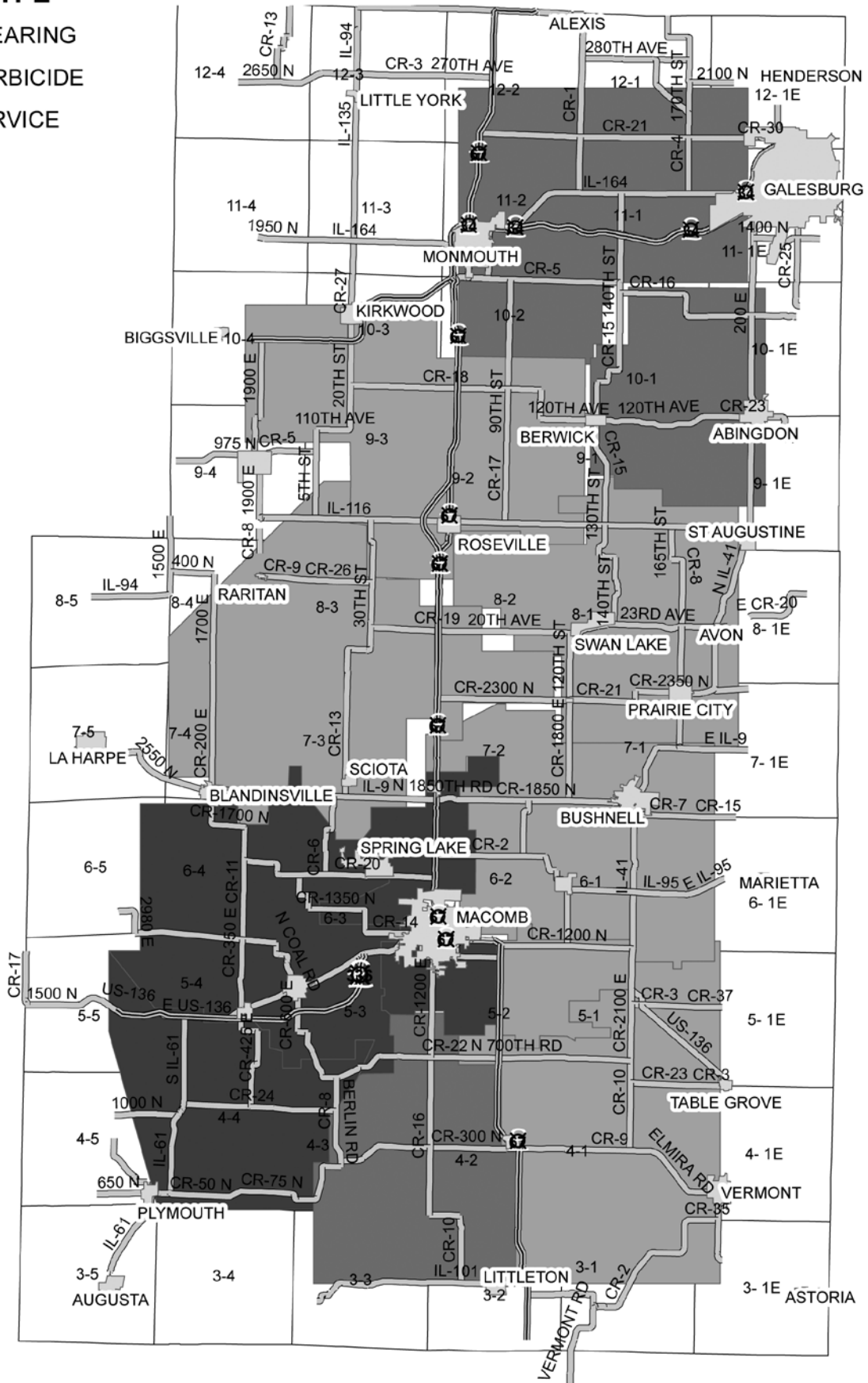
## MAP LOCATION GAME

Every month we will have four map location numbers hidden throughout The Wire. If you find your map location number, call our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.



# WORK TYPE

-  CLEARING
-  HERBICIDE
-  SERVICE





## Water and electricity are a deadly mix around pools and boat docks

The summer water recreation season brings enjoyment, but unfortunately can be awash with tragic realities of electrical hazards around boat docks and swimming pools. In 2010 four Indiana teens were swimming near a boat dock when they all felt a tingle. All hurried to the dock to escape the water, but one grabbed for a ladder that had become energized from faulty wiring and suffered a fatal electric shock. **4315B9-558B**

The untimely death of the teen serves as a warning for swimmers to be on the lookout for similar dangers. Safe Electricity urges all swimmers ... if you feel a tingle, avoid metal ladders and objects and get out of the water as soon as possible, the best and quickest way you can.

Several years earlier an Illinois teen was working in a swimming pool when a faulty electrical fixture energized the pool water. Another teen jumped into the pool to help his friend, and both lives were lost.

Boat docks and swimming pools are frequently wired for lighting and other power needs; however weather and wear can expose wiring and deadly voltage can invisibly energize the water. The result of contact between water and electricity can be serious, even deadly. And in most instances if

potential safety hazards are taken into consideration and handled proactively, accidents and deaths could be avoided.

Emergency responders also report fatalities and less serious injuries aboard watercraft. A 56-year-old man swimming from the stern of a boat in Lake Michigan was elec-



trocuted because of wiring on the boat. Investigators found a neutral wire that was grounded to the boat had energized the metal trim. In a similar mishap a 14-year-old boy died of electric shock on an Arkansas houseboat because the grounding pin on an electrical plug had been disabled and the grounded neutral wire energized the hull. **6315SV33-708A**

These examples of electric shock drowning occur when a low level of current either flows through the water or the metal on a boat, disabling the muscle function of swimmers. It is

often caused by an undetected ground fault, which could be prevented by a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI.) An important step to ensure safety around swimming pools and boat docks is to include ground fault circuit interrupter protection. Make sure the GFCI is professionally

installed to prevent shock, electrocution and injury.

If you plan to go boating or fishing this summer, be aware of your surroundings and potential electrical hazards. Always check the location of nearby power lines before boating or fishing. Contact between your boat and a power line could be devastating.

Maintain a distance of at least 10 feet between your boat and nearby

power lines to be safe. If your boat contacts a power line, never jump out of the boat into the water – the water could be energized. Instead, stay in the boat and avoid touching anything metal until help arrives or until your boat is no longer in contact with the line. Also, check for the location of power lines before fishing. Make sure you are casting the line away from power lines to avoid potential contact.

Take steps to prevent electrical hazards out of water recreation activities. Keep your summer fun and safe.




### Tip of the Month

Consider using solar lights for outdoor lighting. Solar cells convert sunlight into electricity that can be stored in a battery and tapped at night to make light. Check manufacturers' instructions to make sure your solar lights are situated to receive sufficient sunlight to recharge each day.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



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