



## Employee community support

Commitment to Community is one of our founding principles. We don't take that lightly and find ways throughout the year to show that commitment. Two recent examples include a service project and charitable donations by our employees.

Many hands make light work, and this fall our employees were able to spend a couple hours at a member location near Athens (Camp CILCA) to clear up a large tree which had fallen, empty out a couple of storage sheds, and stain a wooden hay trailer, benches and picnic tables.

In addition, a small committee of our employees works throughout the year on small fundraising opportunities and raffles for employee and public participation. In 2023, \$7,700 has been raised



thus far and divided among local area food pantries, the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois, and the Land of Lincoln Honor Flight. If you would like to recommend a worthy

charity for the committee's final fundraising proceeds of the year, feel free to contact us at [info@menard.com](mailto:info@menard.com) or 800-872-1203.

**Office closings**  
 Our office will be closed  
**Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 25-26**  
 and **Monday, Jan. 1.**

*Beginning in December our bills will now feature the names of both individuals when memberships are held jointly with us. Take a look at the top right-hand corner of your bill. If the information needs corrected contact us to let us know!*



## Member Spotlight

# PawKamp

Adam and Amber Helmkamp are owners of PawKamp Boarding Facility, a space for dogs and cats in Petersburg that opened just over a year ago. “We tried to find boarding for our dogs and discovered there were very limited options in this area,” says Amber Helmkamp. The idea to build their own facility was immediate. “We love dogs, and we had the space, and it was a need in the community that we could fill.”

The couple moved fast and in a few short months of online research into other facilities and obtaining permitting with the city, that spark of an idea had become a full-fledged plan. “We designed the space to be just what we wanted,” Amber says. It offers 14 indoor/outdoor kennels; two indoor-only small dog kennels; two cat kennels; an indoor play space for inclement weather days; a fenced outdoor play area; and a pick-up/drop-off space. The indoor/outdoor kennels contain a doggy

door allowing pooches to venture outside at their discretion during daytime hours.

PawKamp was at full capacity nearly every day in the summer months and holidays, and having it just across a small pasture from the house is key to success. Days are long, starting about 6 a.m. for trips to the play yard and feeding time, filled with cleaning, paperwork, more play-times, an evening feeding, and finally a last play yard trip around 9 p.m.

Unless they come in together as housemates, all dogs are kept separate from each other. “As a rule, I get each dog outside to the play area every three hours during the day, but really, care is individualized to the dog. We had an older dog that was busy sleeping and did not want to venture outside quite so often, and then there are the puppies who are always ready for some extra play time,” Amber says.



The limited flexibility of the work is ideal for Amber as a busy mom of two. Her husband Adam works another full-time job but is available at the kennel otherwise. Her mother and cousin are also available as needed to step in and help. And of course, the children enjoy being involved by cuddling and playing with the dogs. You’ll find photos of everyone having a great time on their Facebook page. Besides local guests, some have come from as far as Chatham, Decatur, Auburn and Taylorville.

“It’s a lot of fun. Meeting new animals and getting to interact with them and play with them makes all the clean-up



and paperwork worth it,” says Amber. “We are starting to get more and more repeat visitors now, too, from people who travel a lot or have kids in traveling sports, and getting to really know those dogs is great.”

When asked what the biggest learning curve has been, Amber says, “Learning the right questions to ask before an animal arrives took a little time. Now we know what to ask to get an accurate history, and to have required vaccine records sent over ahead of time.”

For information on availability, drop-off/pick-up times, rates, vaccine records

required and more, visit the website, email or give them a call. For adorable photos of recent guests, visit the Facebook page.



### PawKamp

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217-381-3827

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[pawkamppetersburg@gmail.com](mailto:pawkamppetersburg@gmail.com)

[facebook.com/PawKampPetersburg](https://facebook.com/PawKampPetersburg)

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Get smart with a better way to heat and cool your home! Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and automatically adjust heating and cooling temperature settings in your home for optimal performance. Smart thermostats learn your temperature preferences and establish a schedule that adjusts to energy-saving settings when you're asleep or away.

For maximum energy savings, look for smart thermostat models with the ENERGY STAR® label.

Source: Dept. of Energy



## Scholarships



\$2,000 scholarships for students enrolling full-time in a 2-year or 4-year university, college or vocational/technical school are available through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarship program. Deadline is Dec. 31, 2023.

A \$2,000 LLCC Lineworker Program scholarship is also available through the LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker's Scholarship Fund. Deadline is Apr. 30, 2024.

### See details at

[www.menard.com/scholarships](http://www.menard.com/scholarships).

*Check back in January to apply for another scholarship opportunity directly through Menard Electric.*

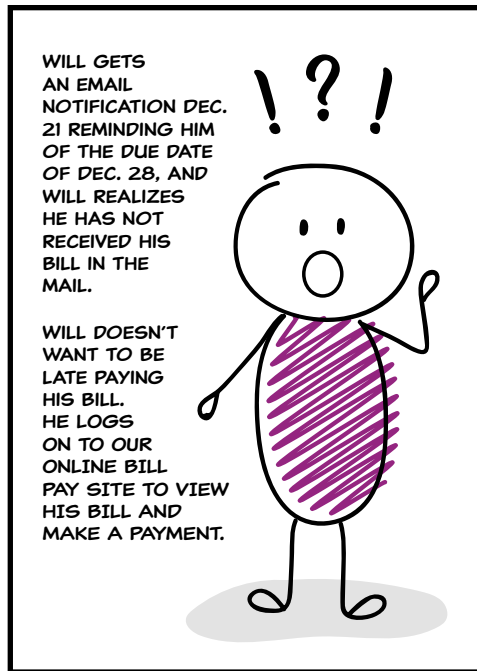
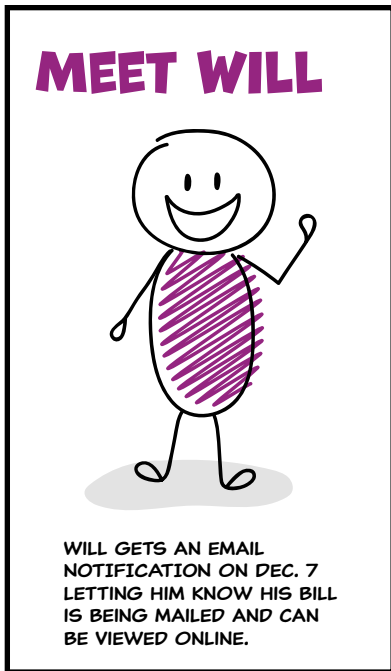


# Board highlights

For full minutes visit [menard.com](http://menard.com) or contact the office.

Sept. 26, 2023

- All directors, General Manager & attorney present in person or by zoom with exception of Steven Worner.
- Thomas Hancock, of Auditing Firm Kelso Lynch, P. C. reviewed by zoom the 2022 Form 990.
- Board Secretary Michael Patrick signed Organizational Document Certification to support Bylaw changes approved previous meeting.
- Motion carried to enter into Missouri Electric Works Consent Decree.
- Anker Reviewed August monthly & YTD financial trends. Operating margins \$2,958,092 compared to \$1,632,805 last year; equity at 42.06%; 12-mo TIER 3.41 & DSC 2.38.
- Reviewed Operations report w/86 incidents; longest duration of an outage 272 minutes affecting 1 member; largest # affected by a single outage 753 due to loss of transmission in storm.
- Discussed application for FEMA funding in Sangamon & Macon counties for 6/29-7/2 storms.
- Discussed intent to seek New ERA Grant Program Funding from RUS.
- Next mtg 10/24/23.



## LIHEAP

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) could help pay your electric, gas and propane energy bills. Contact your local agency to confirm income eligibility requirements and application timelines.

### Contact information

- MCS Community Services, Cass/Morgan County, 217-243-9404, [morgancounty-il.com](http://morgancounty-il.com)
- Sangamon County, 217-535-3120, [co.sangamon.il.us/communityresources](http://co.sangamon.il.us/communityresources)
- Community Action Partnership of Central Illinois, Logan/Mason/Menard County, 217-732-2159, [capcil.info](http://capcil.info)
- Tazwood Community Services, Tazewell County, 309-266-9941, [tazwoodcs.org](http://tazwoodcs.org)