



Illinois Country Living

STYLE GUIDE

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► Picas and points are used for measurements instead of inches because it cuts down on numbers with long decimals.

► Type style names all start with an alternate character. Paragraph Styles begin with a bullet (•) and Character Styles start with a tilde (~). This way, it's easy to determine which styles are imported from Word and to delete them.

► Type styles are color coded.

Paragraph styles are blue.

¶ •Text

Character styles are green.

A ~Semibold

Unstyled type is in orange.

! Description
Typeface and size

Notes are in yellow.

tab before and after
page number

A •Wingdings
directional arrows

▲ ◀ ▼ ▶
p t q u

💡 Endbug is a vector piece of art. Copy and paste as an anchored object at end of each story.

3 DOCUMENT SETUP

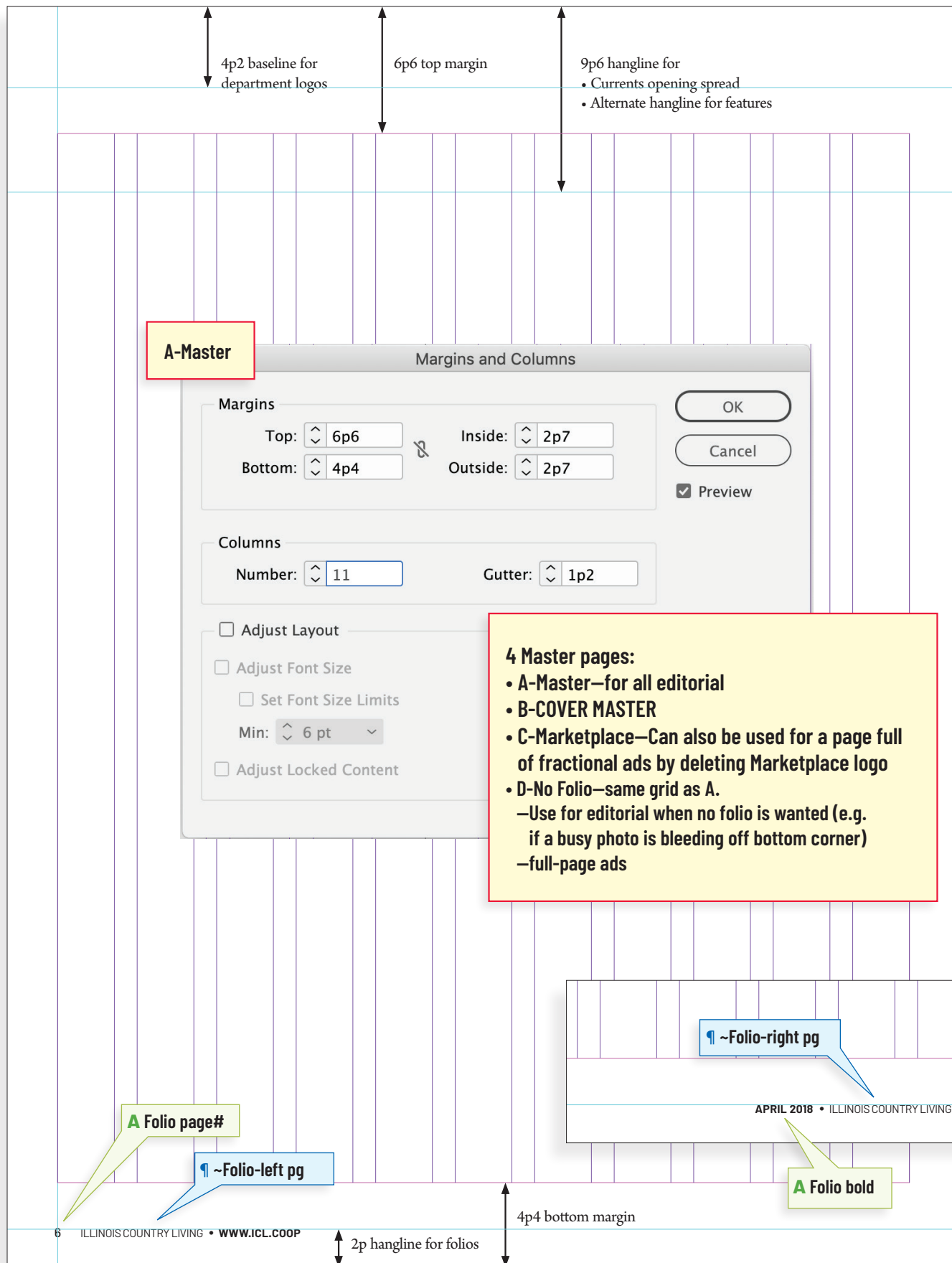
The image displays two side-by-side 'Document Setup' dialog boxes. The left dialog is titled 'Inches' and the right dialog is titled 'Picas and points'. Both dialog boxes have the following settings:

- Intent: Print
- Number of Pages: 40
- Start Page #: 1
- Facing Pages: checked
- Primary Text Frame: unchecked
- Page Size: [Custom]
- Width: 8.125 in (Inches) / 48p9 (Picas and points)
- Height: 10.75 in (Inches) / 64p6 (Picas and points)
- Orientation: Portrait
- Margins:
 - Top: 1.0833 in (Inches) / 6p6 (Picas and points)
 - Bottom: 0.7222 in (Inches) / 4p4 (Picas and points)
 - Inside: 0.4306 in (Inches) / 2p7 (Picas and points)
 - Outside: 0.4306 in (Inches) / 2p7 (Picas and points)
- Bleed and Slug:

	Top	Bottom	Inside	Outside
Bleed:	0.125 in	0.125 in	0.125 in	0.125 in
Slug:	0 in	0 in	0 in	0 in

	Top	Bottom	Inside	Outside
Bleed:	0p9	0p9	0p9	0p9
Slug:	0p0	0p0	0p0	0p0
- Adjust page elements to document changes: unchecked
- Buttons: Adjust Layout..., Cancel, OK
- Preview: unchecked

4 MASTER PAGE A & FOLIO • MARGINS & COLUMNS



5 MASTER PAGES B & C • MARGINS & COLUMNS



B-COVER MASTER Margins and Columns

Margins

Top: 1p9 Left: 2p6

Bottom: 2p4 Right: 1p9

Columns

Number: 1 Gutter: 1p0

Adjust Layout

Adjust Font Size

Set Font Size Limits

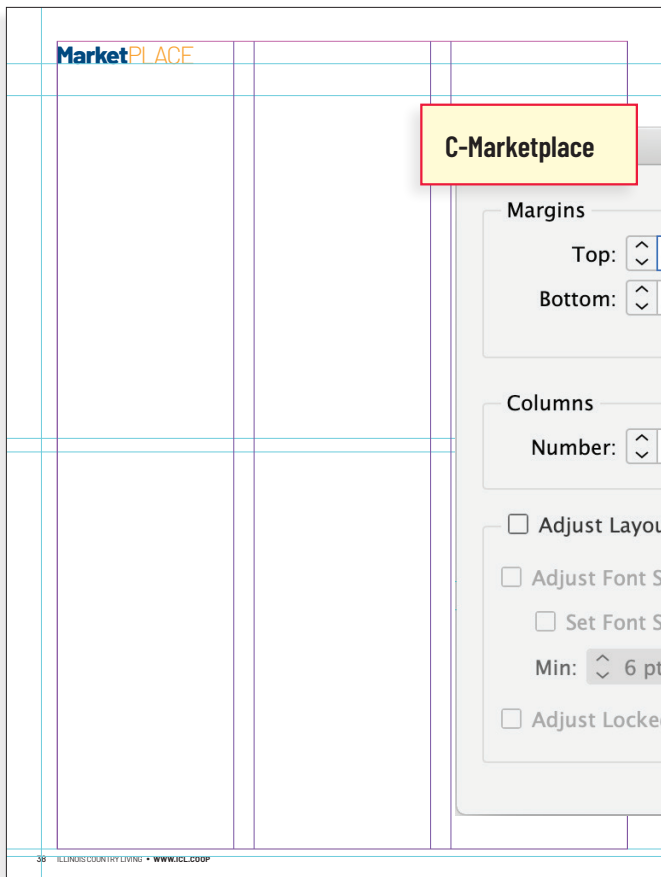
Min: 6 pt Max: 324 pt

Adjust Locked Content

OK

Cancel

Preview



C-Marketplace Margins and Columns

Margins

Top: 2p6 Inside: 3p0

Bottom: 2p6 Outside: 3p9

Columns

Number: 3 Gutter: 1p6

Adjust Layout

Adjust Font Size

Set Font Size Limits

Min: 6 pt Max: 324 pt

Adjust Locked Content

OK

Cancel

Preview

The grid provides structure to your magazine. The grid is integral in maintaining the publication's look and rhythm, promoting its branding, and building a familiar touchstone for your readers.

Master page A, with the 11-unit grid, is the primary master page. It is used for all editorial pages.

The 11-unit grid offers design flexibility while providing visual continuity.

Text will normally be confined within the 11-unit width, but graphic elements can pop into the outside margin.

RULE OF THUMB—For ease of reading, a column's width in picas should be no more than approximately 2.5 times the point size.

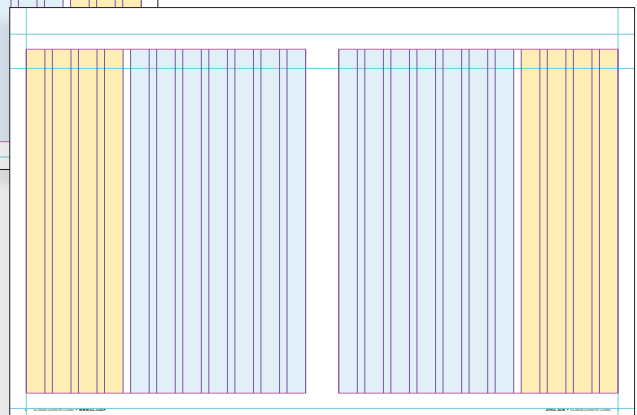
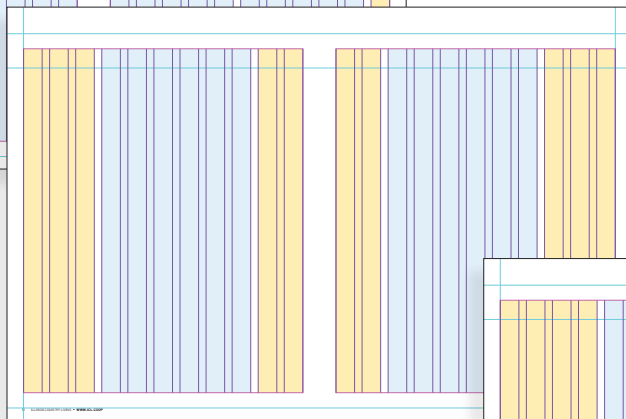
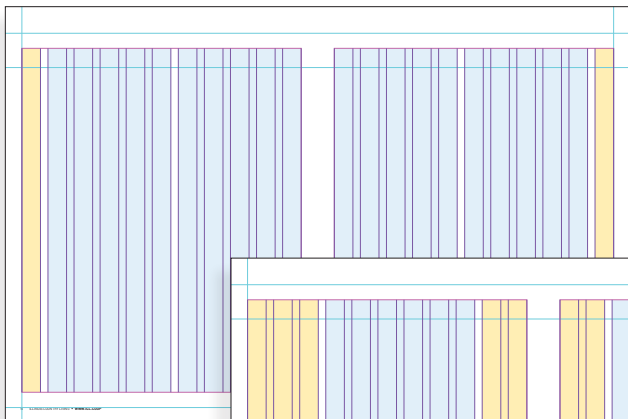
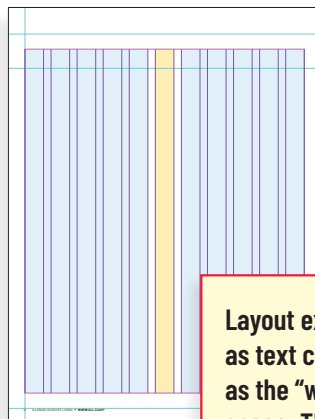
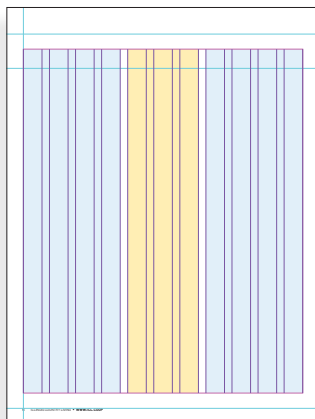
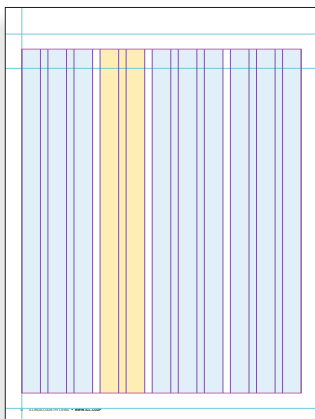
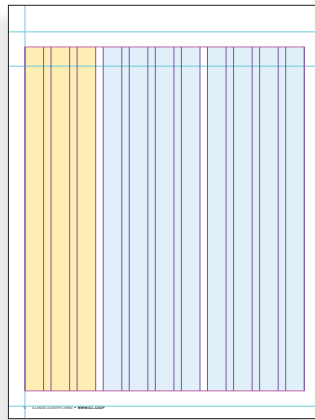
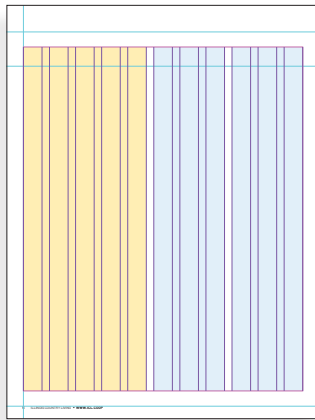
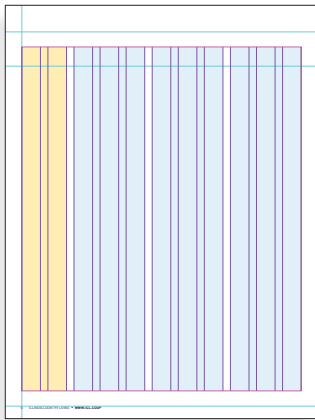
For ICL's 10.3 pt Arno Pro body, that is 25.75 picas wide.

This 11-unit grid:

6 units is 23.25 picas wide

7 units is 27.25 picas wide (close enough)

7 THE GRID • LAYOUT EXAMPLES



Layout examples show blue as text columns and yellow as the “wildcard” open space. The open space can be used for

- ▶ art
- ▶ heads in some layouts
- ▶ decks
- ▶ sidebars
- ▶ captions
- ▶ callouts
- ▶ author bios and pics
- ▶ white space

On feature spreads, it’s usually best to use a symmetrical layout.

The magazine uses two font families, Arno Pro and Barlow.

Arno Pro is the serif used for:

- body copy
- bylines

Arno Pro Regular

Arno Pro Italic

Arno Pro Semibold

Arno Pro Semibold Italic

Arno Pro Bold

Arno Pro Bold Italic

Arno Pro also offers a variety of styles for optimal appearance in specific circumstances.

The serifs are more delicate on styles intended to run large.

- Caption style is drawn to be used small.
- Display is for large use.

These are only a few that are included:

Light Display

Light Italic Display

Bold Display

Semibold Subhead

Bold Subhead

Bold Italic Subhead

Caption

Italic Caption

Bold Caption

Barlow is the sans serif used for:

- heads
- subheads
- decks
- captions
- sidebars
- boxes
- bios
- folios
- most anything that isn't body copy

Barlow comes in three widths and a variety of weights. All can be used when designing feature headlines.

The three widths are:

Barlow

Barlow Semi Condensed

Barlow Condensed

All three have these weights in both Roman and italic:

Thin

ExtraLight

Light

Regular

Medium

SemiBold

Bold

ExtraBold

Black

9 TYPE STYLES • GENERAL NOTES

Type style names

Style names all start with an alternate character. This way, it's easy to determine which styles are imported from Word and to delete them.

Paragraph Styles begin with a bullet:

•Text

Character Styles start with a tilde:

~Semibold Arno

Type style things to know

- ▶ The first paragraph of departments uses **•Text Opening**. It is set up so the first four words automatically appear in the **~CAPS LEAD-IN** character style. If more words need to be highlighted, apply that character style.
- ▶ To keep the left edge of text columns looking neat, use paragraph styles with no indent at the beginning of each article and after:
 - subheads
 - bullet lists
 - lines of white space
- ▶ Paragraph style **•Text-NoIndent-Space** has a line of space added above the graf.
 - *There should not be any reason to have an extra return in copy.*
 - Use this style for paragraphs that begin sections or steps, such as in Energy Solutions and Powered Up. Use character style **~Semibold Arno** to boldface the first sentence.
- ▶ Headline styles are specified to span all columns and balance ragged lines.
- ▶ Space between the head, deck, and copy is specified so that, in most departments, one text box can be used for the whole page (other than pullquotes, captions, sidebars).
- ▶ Arno Pro body copy paragraph styles that begin with **•Text** align to baseline grid.
 - The exception to this is **•Text-BulletList**, which has a 2-pt space above and below each graf. This works perfectly with three or six bulleted items, but space will have to be adjusted with any other number, and if the list breaks across columns.

In this Style Book, type styles are color coded.

Paragraph styles are blue.

¶ •Text

Character styles are green.

A ~Semibold

Unstyled type is in orange.
(The isn't much of this.)

! Description
Typeface and size

Notes are in yellow.

tab before and after
page number

- ▶ Wingdings is a handy font to have when directional arrows are needed. This shows the letters that correspond to the four main directions, but there are many more styles of arrows in the font.

A •Wingdings
directional arrows

▲ ◀ ▼ ▶
p t q u



The endbug is a vector piece of art. Copy and paste as an anchored object at end of each story. ⚡

- ▶ Body copy width legibility—For ease of reading, a column's width in picas should be no more than approximately 2.5 times the point size.
 - For ICL's 10.3 pt Arno Pro body, that is 25.75 picas wide.
 - In ICL's 11-unit grid:
 - 6 units is 23.25 picas wide
 - 7 units is 27.25 picas wide (close enough)

The cover of the magazine is a critical moment for engaging readers and setting the bar for the quality of the design and content. This is not about beauty or art but about impact.

- ▶ Images should be simple, well composed and fill the frame. The headline type needs to be provocative and work to enhance the power of the image.
- ▶ The nameplate is integral to the composition of the cover. Color-wise, it doesn't need to be *the* most prominent element on the page, but a consistent size and position is important for the magazine's branding.
- ▶ Nameplate color can change, but entire nameplate should be the same color.
- ▶ A masked image, like a person's head, popping in front of the nameplate can be a useful treatment as long as it doesn't obliterate the nameplate. (At least, not till ICL is a recognizable as *Time*.)
- ▶ Cover lines should have impact and personality and above all, drive readers into the book. Legibility is the goal and prominence is paramount.
- ▶ Although this example shows the cover lines on the left, they can be placed anywhere. The best placement for the primary head may not always be stacked above the secondary heads, but *do* keep secondary stories together.



COV-MONTH

APRIL 2018

Date aligns top and right to margin guides.

Illinois Country Living

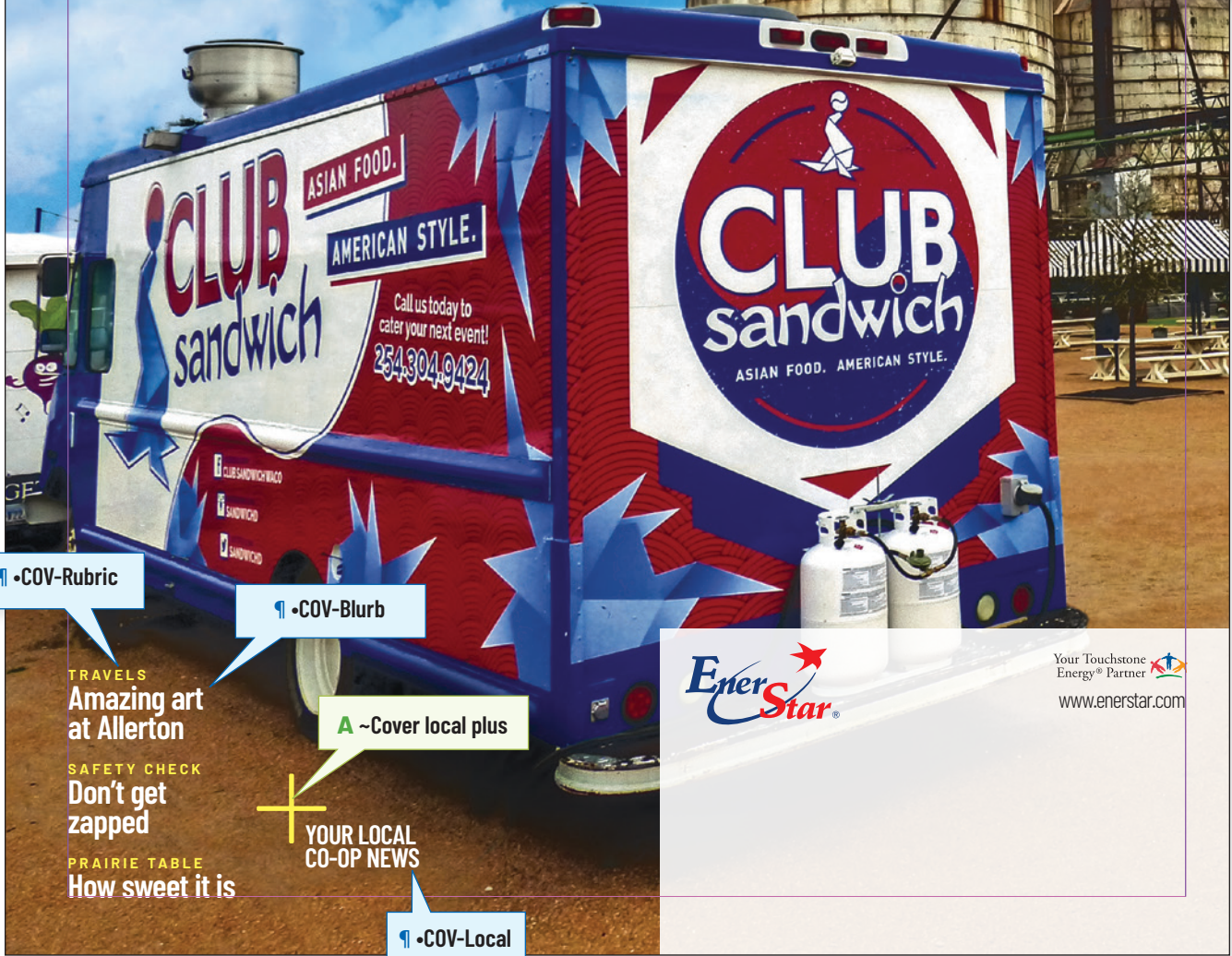
Nameplate is a grouped object because the "Illinois" uses a slightly different drop shadow setting than the "Country Living"
Grouped nameplate is this size:
W: 28p8.114
H: 13p1.333
Sits at these coordinates:
X: 10p0.443
Y: 1p9

COV-BigHead

Cruisin' for Cuisine

Real foodies keep on truckin'

COV-BigSubhead



COV-Rubric

COV-Blurb

TRAVELS
Amazing art at Allerton

SAFETY CHECK
Don't get zapped

PRAIRIE TABLE
How sweet it is

A ~Cover local plus

YOUR LOCAL CO-OP NEWS

COV-Local



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			<h1>Illinois Country Living</h1> <p>APRIL 2018 VOLUME 75 • NO. 12</p>		
<p>20 Cruisin' for cuisine—food trucks deliver great eats</p> <p>If you've ever been to a city or festival with a variety of food trucks, then you know they go beyond your typical street food. Once considered of questionable quality, today's trucks offer a basic hot-dog or taco or gourmet and locally-sourced items such as gourmet grilled cheese, lobster rolls or crepes.</p> <p>22 Keep on Truckin' — Mobile food venues around Illinois.</p>			<p>24 Art, architecture and amusement at Allerton</p> <p>Allerton Park is a little bit of an oasis where people know that cell phones don't work very well; you can fly a kite in the meadow, you can picnic and it's quiet. People utilize it as an escape from everyday life.</p>		
<p>30 They make 'em like they used to</p> <p>This month PRAIRIE TABLE drops in on Hesor's a century-old sweet shop that shut down half-a-century ago, but reopened by the founder's granddaughters with original furnishings and recipes intact. It's like a walk into the past, except you can sit down and have an ice cream soda.</p>					
<p>DEPARTMENTS</p>					
<p>4 FIRST THOUGHTS The cooperative movement Excerpts of NRECA President Phil Carson's Feb. 27 address to members at the 2018 NRECA Annual Meeting in Nashville.</p>		<p>16 POWERED UP Planning for the future There are many items you should have in order before you die. Today there is something new to think about—our digital files.</p>		<p>32 FINEST COOKING Crazy rich Asian food Give the delivery guy a rest and prepare delicious Asian-inspired food in the comfort of your own kitchen.</p>	
<p>6 CURRENTS This month's highlights News/Events/Ephemera</p>		<p>18 SAFETY CHECK Electricity theft: Not worth the risk Excerpts of NRECA President Phil Carson's Feb. 27 address to members at the 2018 NRECA Annual Meeting in Nashville.</p>		<p>34 GREAT OUTDOORS Don't take them home! People who think that wild animal young need their help are almost always wrong to intercede—and it's illegal.</p>	
<p>13 ENERGY SOLUTIONS Aim for quality when managing a renovation contractor It's smart to realize that after the hiring is complete, contractors need to be managed.</p>		<p>20 GARDENWISE Reuse and recycle in the garden this spring A variety of items you likely already have can save you money this year—and improve the sustainability of your gardening.</p>		<p>38 SNAP SHOTS Bird brains Readers respond in flocks to our request for avian images.</p>	
<p>APRIL 2018 • ILLINOIS COUNTRY LIVING 3</p>					

Instead of having its own master page, the TOC follows the A-Master grid loosely.

It deviates from the grid in order to:

- ▶ allow for hanging page numbers by the feature titles
- ▶ keep a cushion of white space around the photos
- ▶ have the departments use a three-column format in a seven-unit space.

Feature photos use the top left space.

- ▶ Overall width should be 28p3, but shape and size of the rectangles and overall depth of the block can vary based on photos and feature story entries.
- ▶ Aim for a mix of far-away and closeup shots, color variety, and not having busy image edges abut.

Department photos use the bottom right space.

- ▶ Overall width, shape and size of the rectangles, and overall height of the block can vary based on number of department entries, as well as length of feature blurbs.
- ▶ Closeups will usually work better in this smaller size space.

Vector logo measures 11p7 x 5p4.542
 Its position is
 X: 31p0
 Y: 3p4



Illinois Country Living

APRIL 2018
 VOLUME 75 • NO. 12

- TOC-Month
- TOC-Volume
- TOC-FeatHead
- TOC-FeatText

20 Cruisin' for cuisine – food trucks deliver great eats

If you've ever been to a city or festival with a variety of food trucks, then you know they go beyond your typical street food. Once considered questionable quality, today's trucks offer a basic hot dog or taco or gourmet and locally-sourced items such as gourmet grilled cheese, lobster rolls or crepes.

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A ~TOC Feature #s

tab

tab before and after page number

•TOC-SECTION HEAD

DEPARTMENTS

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>4 FIRST THOUGHTS
 The cooperative movement
 Excerpts of NRECA President Phil Carson's address to members at the 2018 NRECA Annual Meeting in Nashville.</p> | <p>16 POWERED UP
 Planning for the future
 Excerpts of NRECA President Phil Carson's Feb. 27 address to members at the 2018 NRECA Annual Meeting in Nashville.</p> | <p>32 FINEST COOKING
 Crazy rich Asian food
 Give the delivery guy a rest and prepare delicious Asian-inspired food in the comfort of your own kitchen.</p> |
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 Don't take them home!
 People who think that wild help to</p> |
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 Aim for quality when managing a renovation contractor
 It's smart to realize the hiring is complicated. A variety of items you likely already have can save you money this year—and improve the sustainability of your gardening.</p> | <p>20 DENWISE
 Recycle garden</p> | <p>38 SNAP SHOTS
 Bird brains
 Readers respond in flocks to our request for aviary images.</p> |

•TOC-DeptName

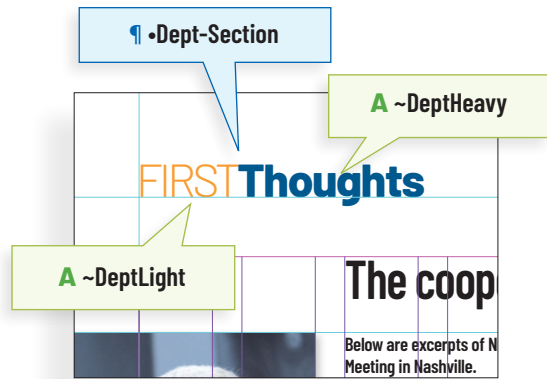
•TOC-DeptTitle

•TOC-DeptText



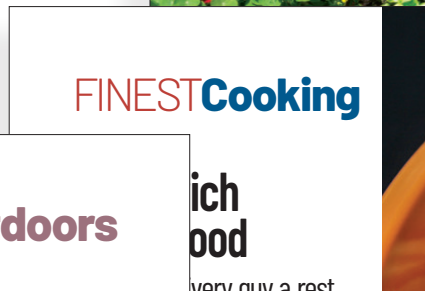
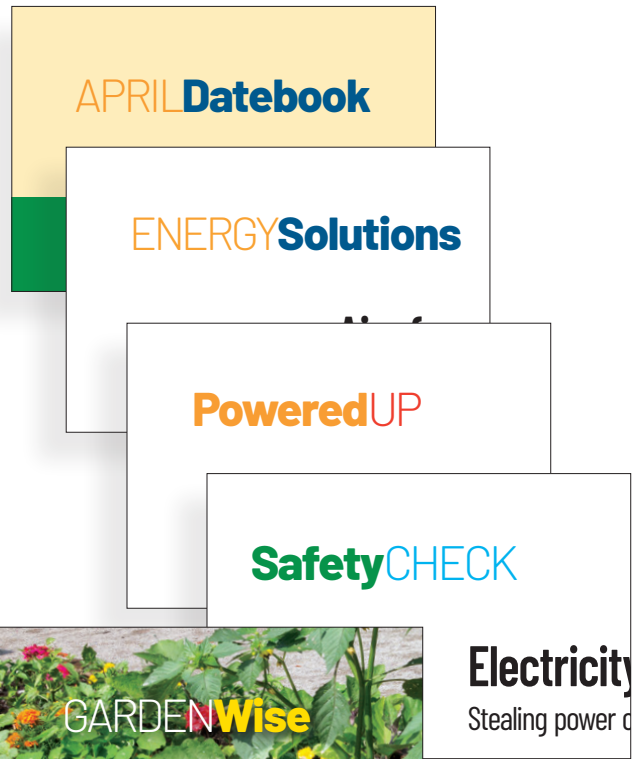
14 DEPARTMENT LOGOS • PLACEMENT & TREATMENT

Department logos align with left edge of left-most unit of grid.



Department logo color and upper/lower case can vary throughout the magazine.

- ▶ Two word logos should always have one word in all caps and one in Upper/lower case, and one in Barlow Light and one in Barlow Extra Bold.
- ▶ Defaults are:
 - ~DeptLight as orange caps
 - ~DeptHeavy as U&lc navy
- ▶ Colors and which word is in caps can change to complement photos or mood.



Don't take
By Mike Roux

FIRST Thoughts

The cooperative movement



Phil Carson is NRECA board president and vice president of the Tri-County Electric Cooperative board.

Below are excerpts of NRECA President Phil Carson's Feb. 27 address to members at the 2018 NRECA Annual Meeting in Nashville.

THE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT belongs to all of the people we serve today, all those we've served throughout history, and the millions of young people who are counting on us to make sure the cooperative will still be strong and relevant to their lives when it's their turn to chase the American dream.

In a movement, your work never stops. There's always some part of our operation that can be improved, and even when we aren't creating new programs or services, there's always maintenance to be done.

I've spent a lot of time thinking about leadership and talking with trusted friends and industry colleagues. One introduced me to a management philosophy called Cathedral Thinking, which takes its name from the ornate houses of worship that often took hundreds of years to complete. The majority of workers who built these magnificent structures weren't alive to witness either the ground-breaking or the ribbon cutting. For generation after generation, workers came to the jobsite and sacrificed their bodies to the grueling task at hand. They found satisfaction in their legacy, and their work is still standing and nourishing souls.

We went around for the start of the electric cooperative movement, but after a few passes of the torch, we're now the ones entrusted to keep the movement strong.

As we build on the strong foundation we inherited, we must consider the legacy we will leave for the generation that follows us. We are experiencing a once-in-a-lifetime industry transformation, and we get to help decide what that future will be. A once-in-a-lifetime transformation is exciting, but it's also disruptive, uncomfortable and exhausting.

My co-op in south-central Illinois is grappling with the same issues you are; issues like the onward push of distributed energy resources and the need for broadband in our communities. But when it comes to big questions that will impact our co-ops for years to come, I'm going to suggest to you that we don't necessarily need all the answers. What we need are the right people committed to the right principles.

I've observed there are two key skill-sets required to meet our leadership obligations at our co-ops: stewardship and vision, and they must be in balance.

Stewards are the caretakers of the cooperative and its assets. Our co-ops are vital civic institutions, and without the services we provide, our communities will die. Stewards recognize the gravity of this mission, and bring a measured, analytical, reasoned approach to our board room discussions.

In contrast, visionaries are perhaps a bit more in tune with the needs and expectations of the average member, both what they need today and what they will need in the years to come. Visionaries like to dream about the possibilities before us, and they're willing to take risks to try new ideas. Not change for the sake of change but change for the sake of our members.

Both roles are important, and when we get the mix right, stewards and visionaries bring out the best in each other. Stewards will challenge visionaries to carefully analyze all the variables before making a change, and visionaries will challenge stewards to consider the case for pursuing a new idea or opportunity and the risks of not acting.

Visionaries will make the case for the co-op aggressively exploring ways to bring broadband to our members because our communities need this service to survive and to grow. Stewards will speak out strongly about a legitimate business case and a careful analysis of what this means to the co-op's financial health. Together, stewards and

Illinois Country Living

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ILLINOIS COUNTRY LIVING is a monthly publication serving the communications needs of the locally owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives of Illinois. With a circulation of more than 100,000, the magazine informs cooperative members about issues affecting their electric cooperative and the quality of life in rural Illinois.

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Stewards are the caretakers of the cooperative and its assets. Our co-ops are vital civic institutions, and without the services we provide, our communities will die. Stewards recognize the gravity of this mission, and bring a measured, analytical, reasoned approach to our board room discussions.

In contrast, visionaries are perhaps a bit more in tune with the needs and expectations of the average member, both what they need today and what they will need in the years to come. Visionaries like to dream about the possibilities before us, and they're willing to take risks to try new ideas. Not change for the sake of change but change for the sake of our members.

Both roles are important, and when we get the mix right, stewards and visionaries bring out the best in each other. Stewards will challenge visionaries to carefully analyze all the variables before making a change, and visionaries will challenge stewards to consider the case for pursuing a new idea or opportunity and the risks of not acting.

Visionaries will make the case for the co-op aggressively exploring ways to bring broadband to our members because our communities need this service to survive and to grow. Stewards will speak out strongly about a legitimate business case and a careful analysis of what this means to the co-op's financial health. Together, stewards and visionaries keep the co-op balanced, focused and strong.

I want to make sure before I hang up my chisel as NRECA president that the last stone I set is perfectly level, plumb and square for those who follow me and who will themselves make their own contribution to our movement. The only reason we even exist is because everybody else said serving our communities would be too hard, to which we replied "watch us."

We're part of a movement. What makes us special is our mission to improve the lives of the people and places we serve, and the motivation to act because it's the right thing to do. I don't foresee either of those things EVER changing as long as there are co-ops. ☺

Illinois Country Living

PUBLISHED BY Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives 6465 South Duch Frontage Road East, Springfield, IL 62712 www.iclcoop.com

800.825.4200 - info@iclcoop.com For address changes contact your local electric co-op.

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR Nancy McDonald

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ASSISTANT CREATIVE SERVICES MANAGER Chris Reynolds

GRAPHIC DESIGNER Jennifer Lanzinger, Kathy Ferraris, Sandy Welke

ILLINOIS COUNTRY LIVING is a monthly publication serving the communications needs of the locally owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives of Illinois. With a circulation of more than 100,000, the magazine informs cooperative members about issues affecting their electric cooperative and the quality of life in rural Illinois.

Illinois Country Living (ISSN number 1088-8002) is published monthly and is the official publication of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, 6465 South Duch Frontage Road East, Springfield, IL 62712. The cost is \$2.89 plus postage per year for members of subscribing cooperatives and \$2 per year for all others. Periodical postage paid at Springfield, Illinois, and additional mailing offices.

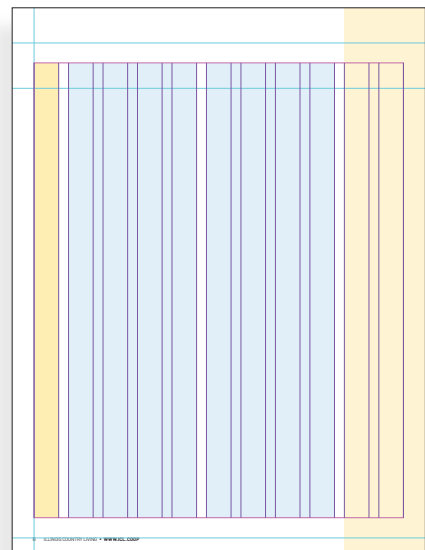
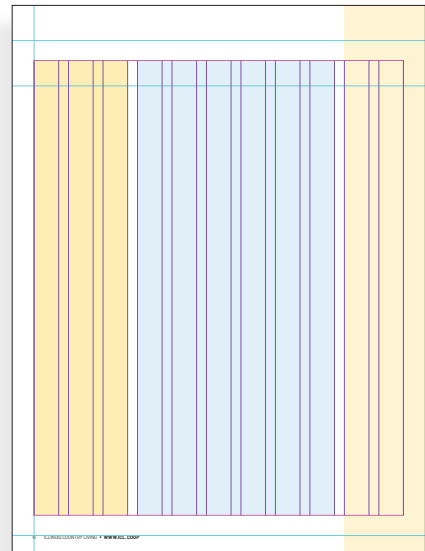
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The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and 25 Illinois electric cooperatives are members of Touchstone Energy, a national alliance of 700 electric cooperatives. Touchstone Energy

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First Thoughts use nine of the eleven units on the outside of the page.

► Using wider column widths for First Thoughts is preferable given its essay nature.

► Depending on copy length, text can run four units wide in two columns, or five, six or seven units wide in one column.

The masthead will always use the two units in the gutter on the First Thoughts page.

► It uses the margin area, but keep at least a pica away from page edge on top, right and bottom.



Printed with inks containing soy and/or vegetable oils.

! Published by
Barlow Black, 4/11, 185 spacing

Vector logo measures 6p7 wide

•MH-Text + 8/8 Bold

•MH-Text

•MH-Text + 10 leading, Bold

•MH-Text + 12 leading

•MH-Text

•MH-Text

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•MH-Title

•MH-Name

A ~Semibold

•MH-Text + 6 pt space above

A ~Semibold

•MH-Text

A ~Semibold

Vector art

•MH-Text

Vector art

Illinois Country Living

PUBLISHED BY
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6460 South Sixth Frontage Road
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www.icl.coop
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**Jennifer Danzinger,
Kathy Feraris,
Sandy Wolske**

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Touchstone Energy
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The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and 25 Illinois electric cooperatives are members of Touchstone Energy, a national alliance of 750 electric cooperatives. Touchstone Energy cooperative employees adhere to four core values—integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.

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CURRENTS

NEWS | LEGISLATION | TRENDS | TIPS

APRIL CHECKLIST

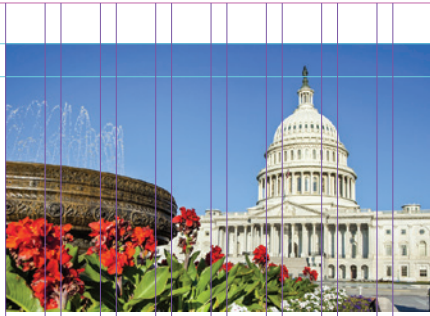
Replace your furnace filter. It should be changed a minimum of every three months. Some filter styles need to be replaced even more often, especially if you've got pets in the house.

Take advantage of pleasant spring weather. Prep for the coming summer heat and humidity by replacing cracking caulk and adding weatherstripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.

Trim trees carefully. Make sure branches are well pruned from electrical lines feeding your home and outbuildings.

Tip of the month: Use wood dryer balls to save energy with every load of laundry. As they tumble with your clothes, the balls help separate clothing in the dryer, providing better airflow and shorter drying time, and they absorb moisture which also reduces drying time.

Source: energy.gov



Budget deal extends energy tax credits

The two-year budget deal signed by President Trump Feb. 9 extends energy tax incentives for geothermal resources, development of carbon capture technologies, and advanced nuclear power, and it adds billions of dollars for natural disaster recovery and infrastructure projects.

"The energy tax incentives contained in the budget bill will help co-ops improve the quality of life in rural America and keep electricity costs affordable," said Kirk Johnson, NRECA senior vice president, government relations. "The infrastructure funding is also welcome news, and we will continue encouraging Congress to invest those funds in rural infrastructure."

Under the budget agreement, electric cooperative members may continue to earn a tax credit for geothermal energy technologies at homes and businesses through 2021. Members of about 40 percent of America's electric co-ops have earned geothermal tax credits by installing highly efficient geothermal heat pumps affordable to their members.

U.S. infrastructure projects will get a lift from the budget deal, which commits \$20 billion over two years toward rural broadband, energy, water, wastewater, surface transportation and capital projects. NRECA CEO Jim Matheson sent a

"The energy tax incentives contained in the budget bill will help co-ops improve the quality of life in rural America and keep electricity costs affordable."

letter to Senate and House appropriators on Feb. 9 recommending that \$2.5 billion be dedicated to rural broadband projects this year.

With natural disasters at historic proportions in 2017, lawmakers agreed to beef up federal aid to \$89.3 billion for the next two fiscal years. The budget bill allocates \$28.4 billion to the federal

For the latest currents news go to www.iclcoop



Thompson receives leadership award

Adams Electric Cooperative (AEC) General Manager Jim Thompson received the Illinois Cooperative Council's (ICC) Outstanding Cooperative Manager Award at the AEC's office on Monday, February 19.

For more than 30 years, efforts of the Illinois Cooperative Council have promoted a positive climate for cooperatives and helped to educate the public about the value and importance of cooperatives in our everyday lives. Each year the council presents awards in four outstanding leadership categories: Director, Manager/CEO, Educator and Friend.

Thompson was selected for the award for his commitment to excellence at Adams Electric. Always keeping members in mind, he focuses on providing safe, reliable and affordable electric service, and on providing the co-op's employees and staff with education necessary to provide the best possible member service.

AEC is also known for its community commitment. The cooperative has been a driving force behind the Adams County Great River Economic Development Foundation and Adams County United Way and has supported many community projects and programs through its Penny Power program.

Thompson has shown cooperation among cooperatives through the expansion of electric service intentionally by providing employees and materials for overseas projects and by sending line crews and equipment to cooperatives in-state

and out-of-state to help restore power during outages.

Nancy McDonald, vice president of member services at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC), and an ICC director, says, "Under Jim Thompson's leadership, Adams Electric Cooperative is a model cooperative. His efforts are admired by his cooperative peers."

U of I recipient of federal funding

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy (FE) and the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) have selected nine projects to receive approximately \$6.5 million in federal funding. The University of Illinois is the recipient of \$1,073,811 in research funds for large pilot testing of Linde/BASF Advanced Post-Combustion CO₂ Capture Technology at a coal-fired power plant.

This funding opportunity announcement, issued in August 2017, is a \$50 million funding opportunity for projects supporting cost-shared research and development to design, construct, and operate two large-scale pilots to demonstrate

transformational coal technologies. DOE has supported a range of potentially transformational coal technologies aimed at enabling step-change improvements in coal-powered systems. Some of these technologies are now ready to proceed to the large-scale pilot stage of development.

The University of Illinois, Champaign, project will design, construct, and operate an advanced post-combustion carbon capture technology.

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The two-year renovation of the Illinois Governor's Mansion is in its final stages and is scheduled to reopen in July.

Illinois Governor's Mansion Association announces re-opening date

After two years of an extensive privately-funded renovation, the Illinois Governor's Mansion will reopen to the public on July 14, 2018. Illinois' First Lady Diana Rauner announced at the annual Illinois Governor's Conference on Travel & Tourism.

"Once and I made a promise to the people of Illinois to promote the Governor's Mansion to restore the pride in this historic building," said First Lady Diana Rauner, chair of the Illinois Governor's Mansion Association. "With an all new visitor experience, expanded accessibility and updated programming, we know the Governor's Mansion will be a must-see destination for tourists and Illinois residents to visit again and again."

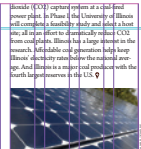
The renovation, funded entirely with private dollars, makes it a usable residence for Illinois governors. When it reopens this summer, it will offer visitors a completely reimagined experience with a new look that is both stately and richly inviting.

CURRENTS



Broadband is priority for rural America

The first priority of the President's executive order on Feb. 28 is to make broadband a top priority for rural America. The order directs the FCC to make broadband a top priority for rural America. The order also directs the FCC to make broadband a top priority for rural America.



Wabash Valley Power Association completes 59MW solar agreement

Wabash Valley Power Association (WVPA) has completed a 59MW solar agreement with the state of Illinois. The agreement will provide for the construction and operation of a 59MW solar farm in Wabash, Illinois.

CURRENTS



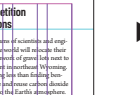
Solar's abundance and potential throughout the United States is staggering: PV panels in just 0.5% of the nation's total land area could supply enough electricity to power the entire United States.

Source: Sandia National Laboratories. The report, titled "Solar Resource Assessment for the United States," was published in 2012. It found that the United States has a vast potential for solar energy, with PV panels in just 0.5% of the nation's total land area could supply enough electricity to power the entire United States.



Global competition for CO2 solutions

As the world's first large-scale carbon capture and storage (CCS) plant, the Boundary Dam project in Saskatchewan, Canada, is facing global competition. Other countries are investing in CCS technology to reduce their carbon footprint.



Their mission: finding beneficial ways to capture and reuse carbon dioxide.

The mission of the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) is to find beneficial ways to capture and reuse carbon dioxide. NETL is working on various projects to develop and demonstrate CCS technology.



Illinois Governor's Mansion Association announces re-opening date

The Illinois Governor's Mansion Association has announced the re-opening date for the historic building. The mansion will be open to the public on July 14, 2018.

Currents uses a 3-4-4 unit configuration.

- ▶ Because there isn't as much white space here as other departments, the opening spread uses a lower headline.
- ▶ Stories run consecutively with continued lines as needed.
- ▶ These pages should offer lots of variety in presentation.
- ▶ Breaking out some stories into sidebars, running large callouts, using a variety of photos and illustration—these are meant to offer easy entry points when scanning and keep the reader engaged once they're hooked.
- ▶ A monthly checklist, focusing on seasonal energy-related tasks, tips and suggestions, runs on the outside right or left of the opening spread. It becomes an anticipated touchstone for readers, and addresses the ICL mission.

•Current-Tagline

A ~DeptHeavy
+47 pt + caps

CURRENTS

NEWS | LEGISLATION | TRENDS | TIPS

! Month

Barlow Cond Extra Light, 48 pt, sized and spaced to fit month name

! Checklist

Barlow Extra Bold, 15 pt.

A ~Blue 12pt Barlow SemiCond

•Current-Checklist

•Dept-Deck

For the latest currents news go to www.icl.coop



Jim Thompson is presented his award by Nancy McDonald.

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The funding opportunity announcement, announced in August 2017, is a \$50 million funding opportunity for projects supporting cost-shared research and development to design, construct, and operate two large-scale pilots to demonstrate



Kevin O'Brien, Director of the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center at the University of Illinois, explains the importance of the center's work in carbon capture technology.

transformational coal technologies.

DOE has supported a range of potentially transformational coal technologies aimed at enabling step-change improvements in coal-powered systems. The technologies are now ready for commercial-scale demonstration.

The University of Illinois, Chicago, will design, construct, and operate an advanced post-combustion carbon

APRIL CHECKLIST



Replace your furnace filter. It should be changed a minimum of every three months. Some filter styles need to be replaced even more often, especially if you've got pets in the house.

Take advantage of pleasant spring weather. Prep for the coming summer heat and humidity by replacing weatherstripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.

Trim trees... carefully! Make sure branches are well away from electric lines feeding your home and outbuildings.

Tip of the month: Use wool dryer balls to save energy with every load of laundry. As they tumble with your clothes, the balls help separate clothing in the cycle, providing better airflow and a shorter drying time, and they absorb moisture, which also reduces drying time.



Source: energy.gov

•Source



•Current-OpeningHead

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Under the budget agreement, electric cooperative members may continue to earn a tax credit for geothermal energy projects worth about 40 percent of the cost. The bill also extends geothermal tax credits by making highly efficient geothermal heat pumps affordable to their members.

The budget bill also advances the current carbon capture tax credit by expanding its construction start requirement from five to seven years and extending the time to claim the credit from 10 to 12 years.

U.S. infrastructure projects will get a lift from the budget deal, which commits \$20 billion over two years toward rural broadband, energy, water, wastewater, surface transportation and capital projects. NRECA CEO Jim Matheson sent a

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letter to Senate and House appropriators on Feb. 9 recommending that \$2.5 billion be dedicated to rural broadband projects this year.

With natural disasters at historic proportions in 2017, lawmakers agreed to beef up federal aid to \$89.3 billion for the next two fiscal years. The budget bill allocates \$23.5 billion to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's disaster relief fund. Portions of this money will be made available for infrastructure rebuilding by co-ops, among other entities. *Cathy Cash, NRECA*

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Illinois Governor's Mansion Association announces re-opening date

After two years of an extensive privately-funded renovation, the Illinois Governor's Mansion is set to reopen to the public on Monday, April 2, 2018. Illinois' First Lady Rauner announced at the annual Illinois Governor's Conference on Travel & Tourism.

"Bruce and I made a promise to the people of Illinois to renovate the Governor's Mansion to restore the pride in this historic building," said First Lady Diana Rauner of the Illinois Governor's Association. "With an all-new visitor experience, expanded accessibility, and updated programming, we know the Governor's Mansion will be a must-see destination for tourists and Illinois residents to visit again and again."

The renovation, funded entirely with private dollars, makes it a usable residence for Illinois governors. When it reopens this summer, it will offer visitors a completely reimagined experience with a new look that is both stately and richly inviting.

•Current-SidebarHead

•SansText-First

•SansText

Endbug is a vector piece of art. Copy and paste in text block at end of each item.

•Box-HeadAboveEdge
+ same color as box tint

APRIL Datebook

LET'S GO!

1-7
Chicago Flower Show
PEORIA
Midwest's Largest garden and flower exhibition

4-7
Illinois Beer Fest
GALENA
100 small breweries and 50 restaurants all in one place

11
Villa Park Arts & Crafts
GREENVILLE
200 local artisans in a juried show

12-14
Audio/Video Expo
ELMHURST
The latest technology and the biggest bargains all under one roof

13-21
Superhero Convention
CHICAGO
Become part of the cosplay party celebrating the greatest characters from comics movies and TV

27
Midwest Bach Festival
CHAMPAIGN
Thirty performances for Baroque at 4 throughout the month followed by a Grand Ball

For a complete listing of Events, visit our website www.icl.coop

•DB-LG-DATE
H + 4 pt space above 2018

14 **APRIL** The Bloomington Normal Hands All Around Quilt Guild's Annual Quilt Spectrum will feature beautiful quilts, a quilt raffle, a unique boutique of handmade gifts, learning opportunities for experienced and novice quilters, vendors

theme for this year's show is, "Friends." The Guild's beautiful quilt is "Bunny in the Blooms" and was unveiled at the September guild

•DB-LG-DATE

•DB-LG-Event
9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Parke Regency Hotel and Conference Center, 1413 Leslie Dr., Bloomington. Admission: \$5

•DB-LG-Place

•DB-LG-Blurb



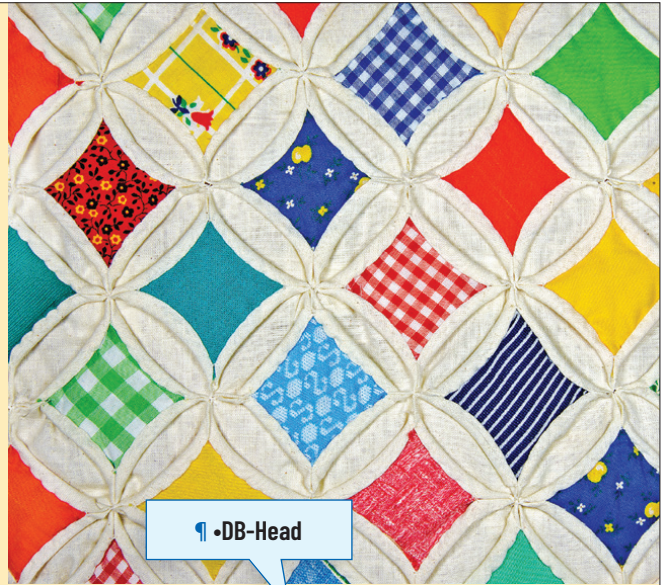
•DB-PageMonth

Annual Riverbend Earth Day Festival

14 **APRIL** The Nature Institute (TNI) is excited to host the 7th Annual Riverbend Earth Day Festival in partnership with the Great Rivers Land and Water Institute, the Great Rivers Resource Center, the Lewis and Clark Community College and the Sierra Club. This event is FREE and open to all. The event will be held, rain or shine, at Piasa Harbor in Godfrey, Ill, which is located on Route 100 / the Great River Road, across from Lockhaven Golf Club. Guests can enjoy local foods, unique goods by local vendors and artists, live music, children's activities with nature-inspired arts and crafts, and more.

April 14, 2018, Noon-6 p.m.
Piasa Harbor, 10815 Lockhaven Rd., Godfrey
Free Admission
The Nature Institute, www.thenatureinstitute.org

•DB-PageDate



•DB-Head

deTour through Jefferson County

28 **APRIL** Roll through scenic hilly countryside and small towns that wind through the relatively flat terrain of Jefferson County, IL experiencing the Midwest in ways you never could while driving. We have three recreational rides for you to choose from: 20, 35, and 15-mile or a 5K Fun Run/Walk. Both start and finish at the Illinois National Guard Armory. The rides include rest stops with food and water every 10 miles or so. The run begins at 9 a.m. Those that pre-register receive a performance short sleeved shirt, free admission to Cedarhurst Museum Art Gallery post event, and much more. In case of rain deTour of Jefferson County will be postponed to April 29, 2018.

April 28, 2018, 8 a.m.
The National Guard Armory, 600 Shiloh Dr., Mt. Vernon
Registration is \$25 before April 18, \$35 after April 18
www.thegreatdetour.org

•DB-Text

•DB-Details



ENERGY Solutions

Aim for quality when managing a renovation contractor

By David H. Smith

Dear Pat, the latest news about how to manage a contractor is that you should be looking for quality when managing a renovation contractor. This is a good idea because the quality of the work is directly related to the quality of the contractor's work.

DEAR BRUCE AND BOB: Last month, I discussed how to manage a contractor. One of the key points was to look for quality when managing a renovation contractor. This is a good idea because the quality of the work is directly related to the quality of the contractor's work.

There are a few things you should look for when managing a renovation contractor. First, you should look for a contractor who has a good reputation. This means you should ask for references and check out the contractor's work. Second, you should look for a contractor who is experienced. This means you should ask how long the contractor has been in business and what types of projects they have completed. Third, you should look for a contractor who is communicative. This means you should ask how the contractor will communicate with you throughout the project.

When you are managing a renovation contractor, it is important to be clear about your expectations. This means you should have a written contract that outlines the scope of the project, the budget, and the timeline. You should also have a clear understanding of the contractor's role and responsibilities. Finally, you should be prepared to pay for the work as it is completed. This means you should have a payment schedule that is tied to the progress of the work.

By following these tips, you can help ensure that your renovation project is completed to a high quality standard. This will help you get the most out of your investment and ensure that you are satisfied with the results.

—David H. Smith, Editor in Chief

2-3-3-3 unit layout is the usual default for most one-page departments, with wildcard space on the outside.

- ▶ In some instances, a different grid configuration may work better, which is completely acceptable.
- ▶ There is great leeway in photo placement.
- ▶ Aim for photos being placed to follow the grid.
- ▶ There are times when the best design for the page means breaking free from the rigidity of the grid. That is perfectly acceptable, but have a justifiable reason for it.

PoweredUP

Planning for the future

One of the hardest things to do is to think about what I need to do to prepare for my life.

Dear Pat, the latest news about how to plan for the future is that you should be thinking about what you need to do to prepare for your life. This is a good idea because the future is uncertain and you need to be prepared for whatever comes your way.

There are several things you can do to prepare for the future. First, you should create a budget. This will help you understand how much money you have and how much you need. Second, you should save money. This will help you have a financial cushion in case of an emergency. Third, you should invest your money. This will help your money grow over time. Finally, you should get life insurance. This will help your family if you should pass away.

By following these tips, you can help ensure that you are prepared for the future. This will help you live a more secure and comfortable life.

—David H. Smith, Editor in Chief

GARDENWise

Reuse and recycle in the garden this spring

Dear Pat, the latest news about how to reuse and recycle in the garden is that you should be thinking about how to reuse and recycle in your garden. This is a good idea because it can help you save money and reduce your environmental impact.

There are several ways to reuse and recycle in the garden. First, you can reuse old tires as planters. This is a great way to reuse old tires and it can help you save money. Second, you can reuse old plastic containers as planters. This is a great way to reuse old plastic containers and it can help you save money. Third, you can reuse old newspapers as mulch. This is a great way to reuse old newspapers and it can help you save money. Finally, you can reuse old eggshells as fertilizer. This is a great way to reuse old eggshells and it can help you save money.

By following these tips, you can help ensure that you are reusing and recycling in your garden. This will help you save money and reduce your environmental impact.

—David H. Smith, Editor in Chief

GREATOutdoors

Don't take them home!

Dear Pat, the latest news about how to not take them home is that you should be thinking about how to not take them home. This is a good idea because it can help you protect the environment and the animals that live there.

There are several ways to not take them home. First, you should not take any animals home. This is a great way to protect the animals that live there. Second, you should not take any plants home. This is a great way to protect the plants that live there. Third, you should not take any rocks home. This is a great way to protect the rocks that live there. Finally, you should not take any soil home. This is a great way to protect the soil that lives there.

By following these tips, you can help ensure that you are not taking them home. This will help you protect the environment and the animals that live there.

—David H. Smith, Editor in Chief

SafetyCHECK

Electricity theft: Shockingly, not worth the risk

Stealing power could prove to be a deadly decision.

Dear Pat, the latest news about electricity theft is that it is a dangerous and illegal activity. This is a good idea because it can help you protect yourself and your property.

There are several risks associated with electricity theft. First, it is illegal. This means you could be fined or go to jail. Second, it is dangerous. This means you could get hurt or killed. Third, it is expensive. This means you could lose a lot of money. Finally, it is wasteful. This means you are wasting energy and resources.

By following these tips, you can help ensure that you are not stealing electricity. This will help you protect yourself and your property.

—David H. Smith, Editor in Chief

RECREATING THE JOY—AND THE TASTE—OF A SWEET POTATTO FROM A CENTURY-OLD SWEET POTATTO VEGGIE CROISSANT

By Linda Chastain

Dear Pat, the latest news about recreating the joy and taste of a sweet potato from a century-old sweet potato veggie croissant is that you should be thinking about how to recreate the joy and taste of a sweet potato from a century-old sweet potato veggie croissant. This is a good idea because it can help you enjoy a healthy and delicious meal.

There are several ways to recreate the joy and taste of a sweet potato from a century-old sweet potato veggie croissant. First, you can use sweet potatoes. This is a great way to use sweet potatoes and it can help you enjoy a healthy and delicious meal. Second, you can use veggie croissants. This is a great way to use veggie croissants and it can help you enjoy a healthy and delicious meal. Third, you can use a combination of sweet potatoes and veggie croissants. This is a great way to use a combination of sweet potatoes and veggie croissants and it can help you enjoy a healthy and delicious meal.

By following these tips, you can help ensure that you are recreating the joy and taste of a sweet potato from a century-old sweet potato veggie croissant. This will help you enjoy a healthy and delicious meal.

—David H. Smith, Editor in Chief

FLAVOR'S CANDY KITCHEN

Dear Pat, the latest news about Flavor's Candy Kitchen is that it is a great place to get your candy fix. This is a good idea because it can help you enjoy a delicious and healthy treat.

There are several reasons why Flavor's Candy Kitchen is a great place to get your candy fix. First, they have a wide variety of candies. This means you can find exactly what you are looking for. Second, they have a friendly staff. This means you can get great service. Third, they have a clean and bright atmosphere. This means you can enjoy your candy in a comfortable and safe environment.

By following these tips, you can help ensure that you are getting your candy fix at Flavor's Candy Kitchen. This will help you enjoy a delicious and healthy treat.

—David H. Smith, Editor in Chief

ENERGY Solutions

¶ •ByLine

¶ •Dept-Headline

Aim for quality when managing a renovation contractor

By Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen

¶ •Energy Question

A ~Signature

Dear Pat: We followed your advice last month and hired a contractor we think will give us an energy efficient renovation. How do we manage the job to make sure the project turns out right?
— BRIDGET AND NEIL



¶ •Caption

HVAC technicians or energy auditors can use diagnostic equipment to measure air leakage and air flow.

DEAR BRIDGET AND NEIL: Last month, I offered tips on how to realize that after the hiring is complete, contractors need to be managed.

¶ •Text-Opening

First, you should decide who will be the main contact with your contractor. Clear communication is critical because a renovation that includes energy efficiency improvements comes with extra challenges. A single point of contact will help avoid confusion, conflicts and cost overruns.

Before the work starts, have a discussion with your contractor about quality. You want the contractor to know you'll be carefully overseeing the work and that there may be others involved in this oversight, such as building inspectors, your electric cooperative or an independent energy auditor. You can discuss the standards of a professional, high-quality job.

¶ •Bio

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency.

Agree on the points at which the contractor will pause so you or someone you designate can review the work. At a minimum, an inspection should take place before you make an

interim payment.

Here are a few examples of interim review points:

- The building envelope should be properly installed. If insulation is installed, it should be inspected.
- Replacement windows should be properly flashed and sealed before siding and trim are installed, which prevents moisture problems and air leaks.
- Some insulation measures can be inspected before they are sealed up behind walls or ceilings.

¶ •Text-BulletList

It's a good idea to maintain good records as the project progresses. These records could be helpful for building inspectors or to qualify for rebates or tax credits. When the renovation is complete, it may be tempting to sign check, shake hands and breathe a sigh of relief that it's all over. But...

HVAC measures require special attention. Nearly half of all HVAC systems are installed incorrectly, which often causes uneven temperature distribution throughout the home, along with higher energy bills. ENERGYSTAR® has a special program to ensure quality HVAC installation. Forced air systems typically have poorly balanced supply and return air delivery that can often be improved. Air flow can be measured at each register, and a duct blaster test can identify and quantify duct leakage.

When you review the work, it may be helpful to take photos or to bring in an energy auditor. Be sure to have these inspections outlined in the contract and discussed beforehand so the contractor is comfortable.

► Paragraph style •Text Opening is set up so first four words automatically appear in the ~CAPS LEAD-IN character style. If more words need to be highlighted, apply that character style.
► Highlight steps or questions within Arno text styles with ~Semibold Arno.

Be clear about changes. It will be tempting to add "just one more thing" along the way, and the contractor may agree a change is simple and possible within the time frames. Contractors and customers often miscommunicate about change orders and end up disagreeing about additional costs when the project is completed. Before you make any changes, be sure to get a written cost quote. If it's significant, you can then weigh the cost against the benefit of the change.

It's a good idea to maintain good records as the project progresses. These records could be helpful for building inspectors or to qualify for rebates or tax credits.

When the renovation is complete, it may be tempting to sign check, shake hands and breathe a sigh of relief that it's all over. But...

Depending on the size and complexity of the project, it may be worth the extra step of having a final audit by a licensed energy auditor. My neighbors were saved from a home renovation disaster when an energy audit discovered the energy efficiency contractor had failed to produce the promised efficiencies. The contractor had to perform thousands of dollars' worth of improvements before my neighbors made the final payment.

Once you confirm that the work is 100 percent complete, you can write a check for the final payment, then sit back and enjoy your renovated, more energy-efficient home!

For more information on managing a home renovation contractor, please visit: www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips.

¶ •Text-NoIndent-Space

¶ •Text

¶ •Text

Author names in bio are A ~Semibold

¶ •Source + no align to grid

PoweredUP

•Dept-Deck

•Dept-Headline

Planning for the future

One of the hardest things for me to think about is what I need to do to prepare for my death.

THERE ARE MANY ITEMS you should have in order for those you leave behind. Today there is something new to think about. Some items aren't that important, but some, such as photos, could have sentimental value. The files I do have are spread

•Text-Opening



all over the internet. I have files on Dropbox, OneDrive, Google Drive, Google photos, in my email, and several other places. Many people would consider the information stored on Facebook very valuable. So how do we pass this data onto our loved ones? Let's look at a few options.

My first instinct would be to make sure all data is backed up on some type of storage media that would be easily accessible to my family. This could be an internal hard drive, a removable USB drive, or even a backup NAS appliance. This would probably be the easiest way, if you're like me and everything is spread all over the place. I don't want to take advantage of many cloud storage solutions and I could never afford

enough storage to back it all up at my house. Some people even rely on cloud providers for their backup solutions. Another option would be to give someone you trust all your user names and passwords. This could be done digitally by using a password vault program like

LastPass which allows for passing on your digital assets. With this solution, the person you trust will be notified how to access your data after you pass away. The down side is all your passwords are now in one place and online. Should the company get hacked, all your accounts are compromised.

So, what happens to our accounts when we pass on? It depends on the account. Not all providers have the same policies when it comes to releasing

your information to family and loved ones. Some companies don't even have a process or procedure in place to accommodate it. What to do with a dead user's information remains a tricky subject for most online service providers. The problem involves who actually owns the data - the party that sent the data, stored the data, or the site that stores the data.

Facebook has added a feature called "Legacy Contact" which allows you to designate someone to manage your Facebook account after you die. Once the Facebook profile is memorialized, the legacy contact can look after your account by responding to new friend requests, update your profile picture and photo cover,

► Paragraph style •Text Opening is set up so first four words automatically appear in the ~CAPS LEAD-IN character style. If more words need to be highlighted, apply that character style.
► Highlight steps or questions within Arno text styles with ~Semibold Arno.

A ~Semibold Arno

and request the removal of your account. However, there are some limitations. The legacy contact cannot login to your account, remove or change past posts, read your messages, remove your friends, or add a new legacy contact to your account. Companies like Amazon and Apple make it clear that you do not own the data or content that you upload. What you have purchased is a license to access or use the content, and that license expires after you die.

Since there is no standard regarding how an internet company handles your online account after death, it would be wise to document all accounts for your family and loved ones to access. Keep it in a safe place as a memorandum to your will, and make sure you document in your will who you want to have access to these accounts. Also make sure you have some method of documenting your passwords that is safe and easy to manage. If you use the same email account to register all your services, as long as you have access to that email account, it is possible to gain access. This method may also require you to document your answers to security questions for sites that have that security feature turned on.

Planning for our departure isn't always the most pleasant thing to do. Just remember, even though you saved your files in the "cloud," you're not going to have access to them when you get to heaven. Make sure you have a plan to pass those precious pictures, or other important files, on to your family. ☹️

•Text-NoIndent-Space

•Bio



Dan Gerard, CISSP, is the Chief Technology Officer for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in Springfield.

Bold face in •Bio style is A ~Semibold



GARDENwise

¶ •Dept-Headline

Reuse and recycle in the garden this spring

Finding new uses for old objects saves money and is a nice thing to do for the environment

¶ •Dept-Deck

A VARIETY OF ITEMS you likely already have at home may be able to save you money as well as improve your gardening. Get creative this spring and make a difference to the environment.

Seed starting

Jump-start your garden by starting seeds indoors in a bright southern- or western-facing window or under supplemental lighting. Many

of you already have milk jugs, egg cartons, toilet paper rolls, newspaper, milk cartons, and other reusable and even biodegradable containers) can easily be filled with soil-less media for starting seeds. Any container that is clean and safe for growing food can be used.

Weed control

With weed control commonly being a time-consuming maintenance task during the growing season, consider reusing newspapers and cardboard as biodegradable weed barriers. Simply place a few layers of newspaper or a section of cardboard over an area of bare soil, and water with your favorite

such as bark mulch, grass clippings or leaves.

The newspaper or cardboard will naturally degrade over time and you can simply add more or more mulch as needed to keep the soil covered. Cardboard and newspaper is the only means of weed barrier I use under my bark mulch now and it works great.

Alternative raised beds

Raised garden beds are a great solution when your garden soil is not ideal, or you'd like to create a growing area that is easier to access. Many raised beds made of plastic or wood may already have suitable construction materials, like a wood pallet, on hand. Simply staple landscape fabric to the sides and open bottom of the pallet and fill with soil. The result is an excellent shallow bed with very mini-

food. Railroad ties are coated with creosote, which is not recommended for growing food. Other candidates for raised beds might be bricks left over from other garden projects and cinder blocks, whose holes you can fill with soil and plant into. Beds can also be lined with a layer of plastic to prevent the soil from contacting the material, if the safety of the material is in question.

¶ •Subhead1

Garden art

Get the kids involved and start crafting recycled materials into gorgeous works of art for the garden. Glue tea cups and plates together on a pole to make small bird baths for the garden. Glue small plates filled with bird seed onto an old chandelier and hang from your tree to feed the birds as well. The possibilities are endless.

This spring, take a look at your garden with a new eye. You may be able to reuse and recycle materials you have on hand to save yourself money and reduce your gardening footprint. ♻️

Author names in bio are **A ~Semibold**



Candice Hart is a Horticulture Educator with University of Illinois Extension serving DeWitt, Macon and Piatt counties. She is also a Certified Floral Designer, Illinois Certified Professional Florist and is an award winning floral designer.

¶ •Bio

► To keep the left edge of text columns looking neat, use paragraph styles with no indent at the beginning of each article and after:

- subheads
- bullet lists
- lines of white space

FINESTCooking

Crazy rich Asian food

Give the delivery guy a rest and prepare delicious Asian-inspired food in the comfort of your own kitchen.

FROM THE CRUNCHY FILIPINO recipe for Lumpia Rolls to the fragrant Baked Soy Ginger Salmon, we think you'll agree it's well worth the time to prepare these dishes. They use common ingredients and require no different skills than ones you use everyday. Easy to prepare, as flavorful as dishes from your favorite carry-out but with a lot less fat and salt, these dishes can become week-night favorites for your entire family.

WE NEED RECIPES!

Upcoming monthly topics

- Dinner-free recipes
- Picnic foods
- Summer recipes
- Please email submissions to finestcooking@icl.coop or mail them to **Finest Cooking c/o Illinois Country Living**, P.O. Box 3187, Springfield, IL 62708. Please include your name, address, phone number (for questions), and the name of your electric cooperative. Recipes not included in the magazine can be found on our website at icl.coop/finestcooking.



Recipe prepared, tasted and photographed by **Tiffany Gresson**. For more recipes and photos go to www.icl.coop. Questions? Email finestcooking@icl.coop. Visit www.icl.coop to see more Illinois Country Living recipes.



Asian Wonton Salad

Sweet Sesame Dressing

- 2/3 c rice vinegar
- 1 c canola oil
- 2 T sesame oil
- 4 cloves garlic, pressed or very finely minced
- 2 T soy sauce
- 1/2 c sugar
- 4 t sesame seeds

Salad

- 2 heads romaine lettuce
- 3 chicken breasts, cooked and cubed or shredded
- Cherry tomatoes
- 1 red onion, thinly sliced
- 1 cucumber, sliced
- 1 package wonton skins
- Vegetable oil for frying

For Dressing: Place all ingredients into a quart jar and shake vigorously. Can make ahead and store in fridge.

For Salad: Heat about 1 inch of oil in a pot on the stove to 375 degrees. Use a pizza cutter or sharp knife to cut wonton skins into 3 strips. You may not need the entire package, depending on how much salad you're making. I usually use about half. Test oil by dipping a wonton strip in oil to see if it bubbles up quickly. Fry wontons a few at a time and set on paper towels to dry. Optional: you can lightly sprinkle fried wontons with sugar. These can be made ahead of time and kept in an airtight container. To assemble salad, tear clean lettuce into chunks and place in a large salad bowl. Top with cherry tomatoes, cucumber and red onion. Add chicken and top with some Sweet Sesame Dressing. Toss salad. Once everything is coated to your liking, add wonton strips, gently toss and serve.

Filipino Lumpi

- 1 T vegetable oil
- 1 lb ground pork
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 c chopped onion
- 1/2 c minced carrots
- 2 c chopped green onions
- 1/2 c thinly sliced green cabbage
- 1 lb ground black pepper
- 1 t salt
- 1 t garlic powder
- 1 t soy sauce
- 30 lumpia wrappers (can substitute with spring roll wrappers)
- 2 c vegetable oil for frying

Place a wok or large skillet over high heat and pour in 1 T vegetable oil. Cook pork, stirring frequently, until no pink is showing. Remove pork from pan and set aside. Drain grease from pan, leaving a thin coating. Cook garlic and onion in the same pan for 2 minutes. Stir in the cooked pork, carrots, green onions and cabbage. Season with pepper (salt), garlic powder and soy sauce. Remove from heat and set aside until cool enough to handle. Place 3 heaping tablespoons of filling diagonally near one corner of each wrapper, leaving a 1/2 inch space at both ends. Fold the side, along the length of the filling, over the filling, tuck in both sides. Moisten the other side of the wrapper with water to seal the edge, roll neatly. Keep the roll tight as you assemble it. Cover the rolls with plastic wrap to retain moisture. Heat a heavy skillet over medium heat, add oil to 1/2-inch depth, and heat for 5 minutes. Slide 3 or 4 lumpia into the oil. Fry the rolls for 1 to 2 minutes, until all sides are golden brown. Drain on paper towels. Serve immediately. *Note: Lumpia wrappers are available at Asian food markets.*

Shrimp or Chicken Teriyaki

Teriyaki sauce

- 1 c water
- 1/4 c soy sauce
- 5 t packed brown sugar
- 1 T honey or more to taste
- 1/2 t ground ginger
- 1/4 t garlic powder
- 2 T cornstarch
- 1/4 c cold water

Combine 1 c. water, soy sauce, brown sugar, honey, ginger and garlic powder in a saucepan over medium heat. Cook until heated through, about 1 minute. Mix cornstarch and 1/4 c. cold water together and stir until dissolved. Add to saucepan and cook and stir until thickened.



Baked Soy Ginger Salmon

- 1 lb. salmon fillets, pin bones removed (or use 1 1/2 T. ground ginger)
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1/4 c low sodium soy sauce
- 1/2 c red wine
- 1/4 c mirin*
- 2 t brown sugar
- 1/2 lime, juiced
- 1 T olive oil
- 1 scallion, minced for garnish

Combine soy sauce, red wine, mirin, brown sugar, garlic and 1/4 of the ginger in a saucepan. Cook for 10 minutes until reduced by half. Remove from heat and add remaining ginger and lime juice. Let cool. Rub the bottom of a baking dish with the olive oil and place salmon in it, skin side down. Spoon a tablespoon of the glaze over the salmon and let sit for 5 minutes. Spoon another tablespoon of glaze over salmon and return to oven for another 10 minutes. Continue to do this until salmon is medium rare. *To make mirin at home, dissolve 1/4 c. sugar and 1/4 c. water in small saucepan over medium heat for 3-4 minutes. Do not stir. Cool. Add 2 T rice vinegar and mix.

Oriental Skillet

Submitted by **Rita Schuchmann, Norris Electric Cooperative**

- 1 lb. ground turkey or beef
- 1/4 c. finely chopped onion
- 2 T soy sauce
- 2 T cracker, finely crushed
- 1 t ground ginger
- 1 egg, slightly beaten
- 1/2 t black pepper
- 2 T vegetable oil
- 1 c vegetable broth
- 2 T soy sauce
- 2 T cornstarch
- 16 oz frozen oriental vegetables
- 1 c sliced Chinese cabbage

Combine ground meat, crackers, onion, 1 T ginger, garlic, egg, pepper and 2 T. soy sauce. Shape into small meat balls. In large skillet, heat oil and cook meatballs until done. Remove from skillet. Add vegetables, 1 c. broth, soy sauce and remaining ginger to skillet. Blend cornstarch and 1/2 c. broth and add to skillet. Stir until mixture boils. Reduce heat, add meatballs and pinpoints. Cover and simmer 5 minutes. Serve over rice.



SNAPShots

Bird brains

CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP:

ABIGAIL CRAFER, AGE 8
South Eastern Illinois Electric Cooperative

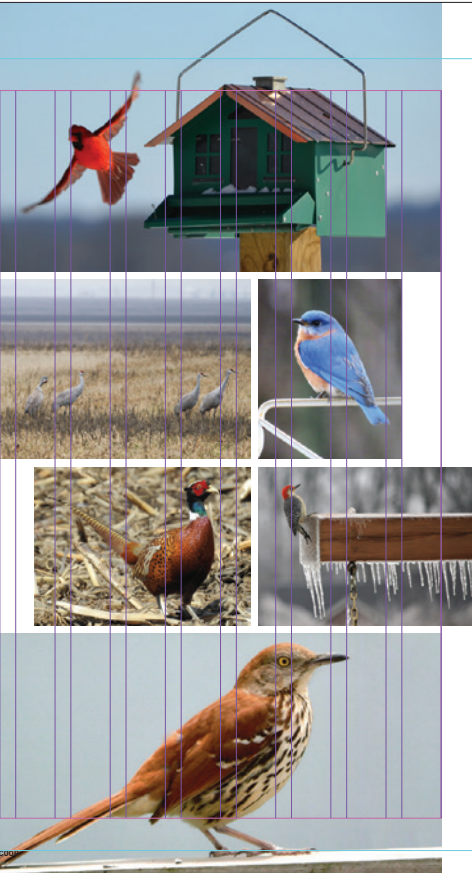
KEITH BOES
Dunes-Mount Air Electric Cooperative

TIFFANY GRESSON
Monroe County Electric Co-operative

SHIRLEY WYATT
Eastern Ill. Electric Cooperative

MARYJANE BEES
Dunes-Mount Air Electric Cooperative

ERIC BERTOLLO
Shelby Electric Cooperative



SUBMIT A PHOTO

Online: icl.coop/snapshots
Email: cburdorf@iclc.coop
Mail: Illinois Country Living
Attn: Colleen Bradford
PO Box 3187
Springfield, IL 62708

Rules: Please include high-quality digital files or an original you can scan. When submitting, include details about the photo, artist's name and the co-op name. If you would like us to return your work, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. We are not responsible for photos lost in the mail. We retain reprint and online rights. Visit icl.coop/snapshots for full terms and conditions.

Departments with many puzzle pieces are usually the most difficult, and most interesting, to design.

Finest Cooking and Snap Shots follow the grid loosely, but individual items will most certainly deviate.

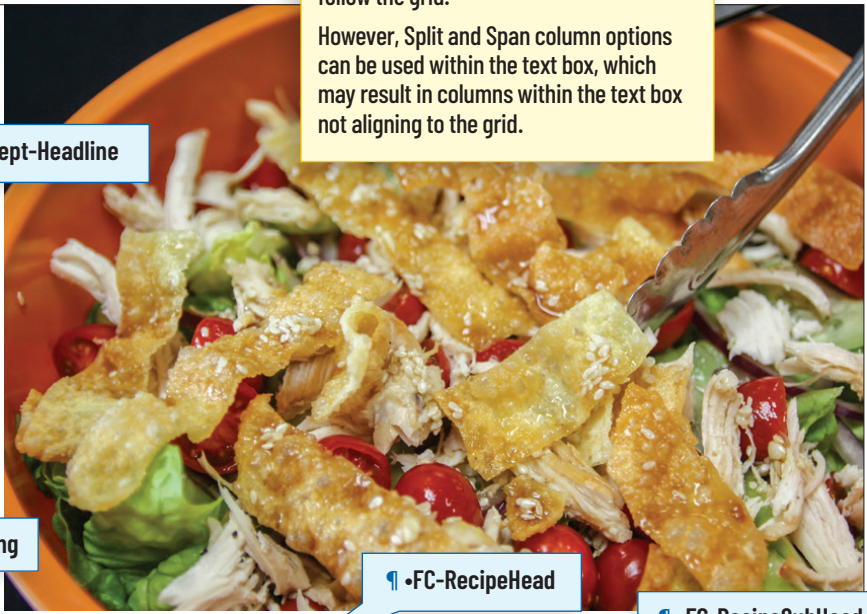
- ▶ Departments that contain multiple photos and bits of text are the hardest to keep consistent with the look of the magazine.
- ▶ Using the grid for text block and photo placement helps:
 - Placement may appear arbitrary, but—though subtle—visual rhythm is maintained.
 - Following the grid makes the page far easier to design by providing a jumping-off point.
- ▶ There are times when the best design for the page means breaking free from the rigidity of the grid. That is perfectly acceptable, but have a justifiable reason for it—such as:
 - the Oriental Skillet recipe above. The overall width of the text block is seven units, but the ingredients have been split into 3 columns.
 - the Filipino Lumpi recipe above left. The overall width of the text block is seven units—plus a bit more to avoid a widow—but it's using a 3-column format with the instructions spanning two of those columns.
 - the bird images at left, arranged to best show off the photos and provide an interesting overall shape.

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FROM THE CRUNCHY FILIPINO recipe for Lumpia Rolls to the fragrant Baked Soy Ginger Salmon, we think you'll agree it's well worth the time to prepare. They use common ingredients that require no different skills than ones you use everyday. Easy to prepare, as flavorful as dishes from your favorite carry-out but with a lot less fat and salt, these dishes can become week-night family favorites.



Each recipe should ideally be in its own text box. Each text box can vary in width, but should follow the grid. However, Split and Span column options can be used within the text box, which may result in columns within the text box not aligning to the grid.

•Dept-Headline

•Dept-Deck

A ~CAPS LEAD-IN

•Text-Opening

•FC-RecipeHead

•FC-RecipeSubHead

•Box-HeadAboveEdge + same color as box tint

•Box-Head

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Upcoming monthly topics

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- Picnic foods
- Summer recipes

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A ~Semibold

•Box-Text



Recipes prepared, tasted and photographed by Valerie Cheatham. For more recipes and photos go to www.icl.coop. Questions? Email finestcooking@aieccoop. Visit www.icl.coop to see more Illinois Country Living recipes.

•Bio

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Salad

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- Vegetable oil for frying

•FC-Ingredients

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•FC-RecipeText

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tab before and after ingredient amount

•FC-RecipeText

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! Note

+ Medium Italic

SNAPshots

Bird brains

•Dept-Headline

•SS-Name

CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP

ABIGAIL DRAPER, AGE 8

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative

KEITH BOES

Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative

TIFFANY GREGSON

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative

SHIRLEY WYATT

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative

MARYJANE BOES

Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative

ERIC BERTOLDO

Shelby Electric Cooperative

•SS-COOP



•Box-HeadAboveEdge + same color as box tint + -25 letter spacing



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•Box-Text + white

•Box-Text + white + 8.5 pt



Museum, Aurora Regional Film Festival, or the SciTech Hands-On Museum. For more information visit EnjoyAurora.com.

Food Truck Rally
 "Champaign-Urbana is fortunate to have over a dozen food trucks that circulate in the area offering everything from egg sandwiches to gourmet food. The City of Urbana's Food Truck Rally series for lunchtime on the last Tuesday of the month from May–November," states Teri Reifsteck, vice president of marketing.

The lunchtime rally runs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Urbana Civic Center located at 108 E. Water Street. Month after month, the lineup of food trucks will rotate. Admission and parking are free. Attendees can eat and mingle inside or enjoy the outdoor seating at the Civic Center. Visit Facebook.com/CityOfUrbana for more information.

Food Truck Fridays
 Attend Food Truck Fridays with the Forest Preserve District in northern Illinois from June 1 to Aug. 24. "Last year's food truck lineup proved to be so popular, the Forest Preserve District is beefing up the options this year, and the goal is to feature three food trucks and one dessert truck per outing," according to Cindy Cain, public information officer.

Four different preserves will rotate hosting Food Truck Fridays from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the following four locations:



¶ •Subhead1

¶ •SansText-First

¶ •SansText

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¶ •Box-HeadAboveEdge + same color as box tint

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These boxes are each one text block, using Text Frame indents, and baseline shift for the Head Above Edge.

our website at icl.coop/recipes.

¶ •Box-HeadAboveEdge + same color as box tint

¶ •Box-Head

LET'S EAT!

Flesor's Candy Kitchen

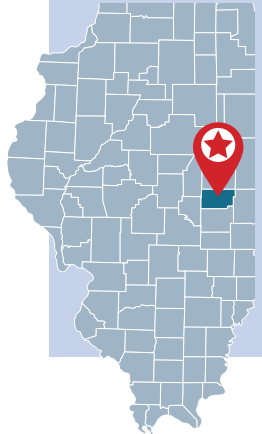
101 W. Sale St., Tuscola
 217-253-3753
www.flesorscandy.com

HOURS:
 Monday-Sunday:
 6 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 Breakfast served:
 6 – 10 a.m.
 Lunch served:
 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

¶ •Box-SubCaps

¶ •Box-Text
 The style has 3 pts of space below. Soft returns are used to break lines as shown.

Credit cards accepted.



Art, architecture and amusement at Allerton

THICED AWAY IN THE MIDDLE OF FARMLAND outside of Monticello, hidden a parish. Driving down country roads barely large enough for two cars to meet, you suddenly enter a world where you may not think you're in Illinois anymore: Allerton on Park Road in Center contains 1,500 acres of woods and an 18-acre estate, a mansion, formal sculpture gardens, hiking trails, lodging facilities, and a Georgian-style manor. While it was originally a private estate, the sculpture gardens, wildlife and architecture can be enjoyed by the public.

Visitors to the park are able to take the rolling trails, relax by the reflecting pool and enjoy the gardens all before the day is over. In 1966, Allerton Park was donated and owned by the University of Illinois after a man named Robert H. Allerton had died and left the park to the university.

Robert was born also in Chicago. His father, Samuel Allerton, was a prominent oil and natural-gas executive who moved to the United States in 1849. The school of architecture at the University of Illinois was founded in 1867. The school of architecture at the University of Illinois was founded in 1867. The school of architecture at the University of Illinois was founded in 1867.

Many people have been able to enjoy the park since it was donated to the University of Illinois. The park is a beautiful place to visit and enjoy. The park is a beautiful place to visit and enjoy. The park is a beautiful place to visit and enjoy.

The feature story should look different from the department pages. A more dramatic design involving large images and art provides a welcome break from the rhythm of the departments, but the use of grid and type styles maintains continuity.

Even though the feature is usually only four or five pages long, it offers the opportunity for a dramatic opener and a feeling of openness in the interior spread(s) that pick up design elements from the initial page.

Typographic choices on these pages are more flexible than in the rest of the departments should not be altered, playing with the headline, adding color or bold or italic to the deck, pumping up the point size for an intro graf, or changing the font style and size for a pull quote are all acceptable.

For feature headlines, the use of different weights and styles of the magazine's two standard fonts, Arno Pro and Barlow, will provide plenty of interesting options. Alternate fonts are generally discouraged unless they present an illustration-like enhancement to an opening graphic.

The feature story is a great place to use the grid in creative ways.

Cruisin' for Cuisine

Food trucks deliver great eats.

For many people, a city or town is known for its food trucks. When you know they go beyond their typical street-food, these cost-effective and portable food trucks offer a wide variety of food items a basic kitchen or even a full kitchen. They are also a great way to get a taste of a new cuisine or to try a new recipe or ingredient. They provide an inexpensive way to try a new recipe or ingredient. They provide an inexpensive way to try a new recipe or ingredient.

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Keep on Truckin'

Follow the food frenzy around Illinois

Rochelle Community Alliance Network 24th Food Truck Festival
Created with the intent to support Rochelle's 20th anniversary, this festival highlights local businesses that support a cause. Proceeds support the community center and support the network of food trucks.

Barron's 1st Annual Food Truck Festival
Charming Barron's Street is downtown Barron will be transformed on May 4 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. giving you the opportunity to sample a variety of dishes. Barron's Food Truck Festival is a great opportunity for the City of Barron. We are excited to have so many food trucks and vendors in Barron.

Food Truck Rally
Champaign's Illinois is fortunate to have over 200 food trucks that are a part of the food truck industry. The food truck industry is a growing industry and is a great way to support local businesses.

Keep on Truckin'

Follow the food frenzy around Illinois

Normal Week/County Fair Area
Normal, Ill. is a great place to visit and enjoy. The park is a beautiful place to visit and enjoy. The park is a beautiful place to visit and enjoy.

Rocky Creek Market Water Festival
Rocky Creek Market Water Festival is a great place to visit and enjoy. The park is a beautiful place to visit and enjoy. The park is a beautiful place to visit and enjoy.

Food Truck Festival
Food Truck Festival is a great place to visit and enjoy. The park is a beautiful place to visit and enjoy. The park is a beautiful place to visit and enjoy.

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•Feature-Head used as a jumping off point

•Feature-Deck

Cruisin' for Cuisine

Food trucks deliver great eats.

By Valerie Cheatham and Brandy Riley

IF YOU'VE EVER BEEN to a city or festival with a variety of food trucks, then you know they go beyond your typical street food. Once considered of questionable quality, today's trucks offer all lev-
 Today, the increasing popu-
 larity of food trucks can be tr-
 to Los Angeles in 2008 wh-
 trucks rec-
 The 200-
 restaurant
 close, forcing talented chef-
 a job. A food truck was the
 continue cooking for a frac-
 the cost of a brick and mot-
 tion. These mobile kitchen-
 new entrepreneurs the opp-
 to start a new business and

Previous iterations of the food truck can be traced back to the east coast in 1872 when vendor Walter Scott first sold sandwiches, pie and

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- ▶ Body copy paragraph styles used in features are the same as departments.
- ▶ Other than for the main body copy, typographic choices on these pages are more flexible than in departments.
- ▶ Paragraph styles can be used as a jumping off point for
 - headlines
 - decks
 - intro paragraphs
 - pull quotes

Playing with the headline, adding color or bold or italic to the deck, pumping up the point size for an intro graf, or changing the font weight, style and size for a pull quote are all encouraged!

•ByLine

•Text-Opening

•Text

•Feature-Head used as a jumping off point

•Feature-Deck

Keep on Truckin'

Follow the food frenzy around Illinois



Museum, Aurora Regional F...
 or the SciTech Hands-On Mus...
 more information visit Enjoy...
 Aurora.com.

Food Truck Rally

"Champaign-Urbana is fortunate to have over a dozen food trucks that circulate in the...
 thing from egg...
 food. The city of...
 Truck Rally series...
 last Tuesday of the month from May-
 November," states Teri Reifsteck, vice
 president of marketing.

The lunchtime rally runs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Urbana Civic Center located at 108 E. Water Street. Month after month, the will rotate. Admi-
 ment are free. A
 mingle inside or enjoy the outdoor seat-
 ing at the Civic Center. Visit Facebook.
 com/CityOfUrbana for more information.

Food Truck Fridays

Attend Food Truck Fridays with the Forest Preserve District in northern Illinois from June 1 to Aug. 24.
 "Last year's food truck lineup proved to be so popular, the Forest Preserve District is beefing up the options this year, and the goal is to feature three food trucks and one dessert truck per outing," according to Cindy Cain, public information officer.

Four different preserves will rotate hosting Food Truck Fridays from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the following four locations:

Rochelle Community Action Network (CAN) Food Truck Festival

Created with the intent to support Rochelle CAN's mission, this festival highlights good eats that support a cause. Proceeds support the organization's annual shopping trip in early December, the elementary school backpack program and their Operation Warm coat drive—all which provide for local children. Attendees are invited to take a seat at a picnic table, grab lunch to go or browse local shops while they listen to lively tunes. The annual fundraiser will be held in the Municipal parking lot, at the corner of 4th Avenue and Main Street, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 28. "Come out and support Rochelle CAN while enjoying great food truck fare," states Eva Chu, vice president of Rochelle CAN. To learn more about this year's event, visit EnjoyRochelle.com.

Aurora's 3rd Annual Food Truck Festival

Charming Benton Street in downtown Aurora will be transformed on May 4 from 5 to 10 p.m., giving you the opportunity to munch on a variety of dishes. "Aurora's Food Truck Festival is a great showcase for the City of Aurora. We get visitors from all over that come out to enjoy the best of Chicagoland's gourmet food trucks," explains James Cardis, director of marketing. "The Food Truck Festival lines up with our First Fridays art walk, so visitors can also enjoy dozens of pop-up art galleries and live entertainment throughout downtown Aurora." Visitors can also take a ride on the free trolley to a nearby venue such as the Grand Army of the Republic



- ▶ For feature headlines, mixing and matching different weights and styles of the magazine's two standard fonts, Arno Pro and Barlow, will provide many interesting options.
- ▶ Alternate fonts are generally discouraged unless they visually and logically enhance the topic and graphics.

TUCKED AWAY IN THE heart of Monticello hides a park large enough for two where you may not think you're in Illinois anymore.

Allerton Park and Retreat Center contains 1,500 acres of woodland and prairie, hiking trails, lodgings. While it was originally a wildlife and architecture can be enjoyed by the public.

•Text-Opening + 15/20 + white

•Text + 15/20 + white + 2p 1st line indent

Art, architecture and amusement at Allerton

This headline is Arno Pro Italic Display. The initial cap A is Italianno.

26 ILLINOIS COUNTRY LIVING • WWW.ICL.COOP



•PullQuote + extra leading

From the Sun Singer to the Fu Dog Garden, visitors can enjoy formal gardens inspired from all over the world.

caught scarlet fever, which proved fatal for his mother. Robert collected some pieces during his travels. Peterson describes Robert as private, creative and generally considered eccentric, but nowadays, I think he'd fit in. After building the mansion, Robert would work in the garden and in the winter, he and his lifelong companion and architect. During his travels, he would find pieces of art and architecture. "He had great vision," Peterson says. "He was very artistic." Robert collected some pieces during his travels. Whenever he would come across a blue porcelain Fu Dog, he would buy it. His Fu Dog Garden, which consists of 22 Fu Dogs sitting in a row. Other pieces in the park Robert had commissioned. Robert spotted the Sun Singer, a bronze sculpture of the musician. He was impressed by it and contacted the artist Carl Milles to commission it. From the Sun Singer to the Fu Dog Garden, visitors can walk down the observation deck in the House of the Last Century, one of Peterson's favorite areas, the Death of the Last Century, the park's major trails. It sits in the heart of the garden... while it seems simple, it explains. Robert and John, who he eventually moved to Kauai, Hawaii, which is why



•Box-HeadAboveEdge + same color as box tint

TIME TO VISIT

If you're looking to get away, Allerton Park is free to the public, but donations are welcome. The park is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to sunset. For upcoming events, visit Facebook.com/AllertonPark.

•Box-Text

This is the same information showing different type treatments.

Taking care of the park isn't an easy feat. Right now, there are about 18 staff members. Two of them are garden staff who maintain the 80-acres of formal gardens, two natural area staff who care for the 1,500 acres of the natural area that surrounds the park, and there are three maintenance staff members. They also hire four or five extra help staff that work through the summer in the garden. Peterson says the park relies heavily on donors and volunteers for support.

In addition, Allerton Park also hosts conferences, weddings, special events, and overnight stays in the mansion and around the property. Throughout the estate, there are 41 overnight rooms, and 17 of those are in the mansion. You can even stay in Robert's bedroom.

Because it's part of the U of I, Allerton Park offers supplementary education resources for the university because of the natural areas, gardens, art and architecture. There's even a concert series it hosts in the fall.

"We have a lot of research that goes on here," Peterson notes. "It's mainly all focused in the natural areas because we have 1,500 acres of pre-European settlement right here in the middle of central Illinois, which isn't something that comes up very much."

Peterson says that there's an estimated 225,000 people that come through the park every year.

"Allerton Park is a little bit of an oasis where people know that cell phones don't work very well, you can fly a kite in the meadow, you can picnic and it's quiet. People utilize it as an escape from everyday life," Peterson explains. "People just use it as a place to come out and enjoy getting away from it all. It's kind of a destination close by, but it feels like you're worlds away."

it," Peterson says. "I want to make sure the life we keep things preserved here from when he was here. Taking care of them are about 18 staff members who maintain the 80-acre park, and there are also hire four or five staff members through the summer in the garden. Peterson says the park relies heavily on donors and volunteers for support.

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•Source