

POWERLINE

NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF CORN BELT ENERGY



EDITION: APRIL 2021

New local business, Etc. Shoppes & Storage, opens doors amidst the pandemic

The middle of a pandemic is never an ideal time to open a new business, but the new Etc. Shoppes & Storage has been a popular shopping stop for locals and visitors to the Bloomington-Normal area since opening November 10, 2020. "I am very determined to keep going," said Etc. Shoppes & Storage proprietor Karen Wingo about opening her new business amidst the pandemic.

Wingo is not a stranger to business ownership in Central Illinois. Her previous store location, originally established in 2016 in Lexington, closed due to pandemic related impact on the small business. However, that did not stop Wingo from picking up the pieces and opening a business in the Bloomington, Illinois, area.

Shopping

At the current location, Etc. Shoppes & Storage has become



a labor of love that is full of something for everyone. The customer friendly store featuring brand new to antique items to meet almost anyone's budget. Popular items for sale include furniture, antiques, metal art, vintage signs, jewelry, and seasonal décor. And the inventory

is refreshed often so customers can find unique items each time they visit.

In addition to Wingo, three other employees assist with the day-to-day operation of the business. The employees at Etc. Shoppes & Storage also specialize in crafts of

The ETC included in the name, not only stands for what Wingo describes as, "everyone else's etcetera," indicative of the wide variety of items available at the store but more specifically is an acronym for the key types of merchandise available in the store – estates, thrift and consignments.





Pictured above left to right: Kay Fifer, Karen Wingo, owner of Etc. Shoppes & Storage, and John Fifer.

their own such as custom floral décor by Kay Fifer and hand-crafted barn wood items by John Fifer. “We create custom items by request, and we love to help people decorate,” said Wingo.

For those looking for a creative outlet, they offer walk-in painting classes for individuals, a 2-hour session is \$35 and private parties are accommodated by appointment. Local artist, Sue Hufford, who heads up painting classes at the shop has some of her artistic creations there for sale as well.



They also offer a variety of other classes throughout the year such as necklace and bracelet making, cricut classes, and many seasonal and holiday activities.

Realizing that the pandemic has changed the way people shop, the Etc. Shoppes & Storage store is large and open with room for social distancing. The employees have taken careful precaution for sanitizing and items are also individually cleaned before placed for sale.

Storage

In addition to the storefront, they also have a storage portion of the business which includes 38 indoor self-storage units in six different sized options including 16 RV and boat storage spots as well as 50 outdoor spots for RVs or boats. Customers interested in storage units, RV or boat storage should call: 309-386-1804.

About Etc. Shoppes & Storage

Etc. Shoppes & Storage is located at 1804 N. Towanda Barnes Road, Bloomington, Illinois.



The store is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm and is closed on Mondays.

Check out their Facebook page for specials, class schedule information, and photos of the latest items arriving at their store.

Corn Belt Energy cancels 2021 Annual Meeting

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Corn Belt Energy's Board of Directors has canceled the organization's 2021 Annual Meeting scheduled for Friday, June 18.

Corn Belt Energy continues to closely monitor practices outlined by the Centers for Disease Control as well as state and local guidelines. The well-being and safety of our members and employees continues to be a top priority for the cooperative and canceling the event is the best course of action, at this time, in accordance with current limitations on large gatherings.

"Canceling the meeting was a difficult decision because just like you, we enjoy seeing our members at our annual meeting. Corn Belt Energy's actions and decisions will, as always, consider the best interest of our members, employees and the community," stated Don Taylor, Corn Belt Energy President & CEO. "And we look forward to future member meetings when it is safe to do so."

Using energy wisely

Corn Belt Energy is here to help our co-op members improve overall comfort in their home or business while using energy efficiently. Our website contains helpful videos, tools and tips that can help you save energy and money.

In addition, we offer a variety of energy efficiency rebates and incentives that may apply to your home, business, farm or school. Visit us online at www.cornbeltenergy.com/rebates or contact us at 800-879-0339 to see which incentives and rebates are currently available.

Energy efficiency tip for water heater thermostats

Some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140 degrees, but most households usually only require them to be set at 120 degrees.

Consider lowering your water heater's temperature to save energy and slow mineral buildup in the heater and pipes.

Source: www.energy.gov



Pam Carr
Senior Member Accounts Representative

How long have you worked at Corn Belt Energy?
30 years

What is your role at Corn Belt Energy?
Run the Central Billing, adjustments, take outage calls, establish service for people moving into our territory, answer billing questions, process payments, etc

What aspect of your role do you enjoy the most?
Working for a small business that works as a team to provide electric service to our members.

If there is one piece of advice that you could share with our members, what would it be?
Cherish yesterday, live today and treat others as you would want to be treated.

Corn Belt Energy puts SAFETY FIRST. What safety tip would you share with our members?
Respect electricity! It is very dangerous. Always assume wires are hot. Keep your distance and call Corn Belt immediately.

What are your hobbies and outside interests?
Gardening, love shopping for antiques, and I enjoy many crafts.

Who or what inspires you?
As I've gotten older, I am just really inspired by people with a good heart.

If you had to select a hashtag to describe yourself, what would it be?
#readyforretirement

Is there anything else that you would like to share with our members?
I am grateful to have had a job at Corn Belt for 30 years.



Know what's below: steps for safe digging

Spring is just around the corner, and there's never been a better time to get outside and enjoy the fresh air. Perhaps you're making plans for a new garden or a lawn makeover. However you're planning to revamp your backyard oasis, remember to keep safety in mind for all projects—especially those that require digging near underground utility lines.

Most of us never think about the electric, gas, water and other utility lines buried below the ground, but hitting one of these lines while digging is not the reminder you'll want—trust us! Corn Belt Energy reminds all members who are planning a digging project to

call 811 at least three business days before you start. Or you can submit a request online by visiting <http://newtina.julie1call.com/erequest/>

Here's how the process works: After you call 811 or submit your request online, all affected utilities will be notified of your intent to dig. It may take the utilities a few days to get to your request, so please be patient. The affected utilities will send someone out to mark the buried lines with paint or flags. Before you break ground, confirm that all the utilities have responded to your request. If you placed your request by phone, use the process explained by your 811 call center



Know what's below. Call before you dig.

representative. If you submitted your request online, refer to your 811 center ticket to confirm everything.

By taking this important step before you break ground on your project, you can help protect not only yourself but our community. Disrupting an underground utility line can interrupt service, cause injuries and cost money to repair, so remember to call 811 first and know what's below.

CONTACT US

1-800-879-0339 | cbec@cornbeltenergy.com | www.cornbeltenergy.com |  
1 Energy Way, Bloomington IL 61705 | Office hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

