

WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC Powerlines

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC

Comments from your CEO

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION

Not since the big energy crisis of the 1970s have efficiency and conservation received so much attention.

While demand for electricity is predicted to increase by 18 percent over the next decade, capacity to generate electricity will only increase by 8.4 percent, according to the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), a Princeton, N.J.-based non-profit organization charged with monitoring America's power system reliability. Unless more electric generation resources become available, it will not be long before the need for power can no longer be met.

At Whitewater Valley REMC we take our responsibility to meet that rising demand seriously, providing safe, affordable, and reliable power. While we do our job, co-op



Boyd Huff, CEO

members can help as well. Energy efficiency at home not only slows rising demand, it can also reduce those electric bills every month.

Simple steps can add up to make a big difference. Turning off lights when not in use; replacing old lighting, appliances, and equipment with more energy-efficient models; and

managing electricity use carefully can cause a ripple effect, reducing the immediate need for new generation and curbing emissions of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, blamed for contributing to climate change.

Together, we can tackle these looming scarcity issues and keep the lights on in the years ahead. ●



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Liberty Office Hours:

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday
Closed Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays

To Report an Outage or Emergency:

- Call 765.458.5171 or 1.800.529.5557 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Be ready to provide the following information:

- The name and account number under which your electric service is listed
- Map location number
- Your phone number—needed to call back or confirm power restoration
- The type of problem you are experiencing —flickering lights, complete power outage, etc.

We appreciate your call and will work promptly to assist you.

Questions for Boyd

Name: _____

Account No.: _____

Phone: (____) _____

My question or comment is:

If you have any questions for Boyd, please call 1.800.529.5557 or 765.458.5171. You may also e-mail Boyd Huff at bhuff@wwvremc.com



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For up-to-date information, visit us on the web at www.wwvremc.com.

Touchstone Energy Camp Participant Selected



Blake McCoy

Blake McCoy of West Harrison has been chosen to attend the 2008 Touchstone Energy Camp. The camp, for students entering the 6th grade in 2008, is held at Camp Tecumseh YMCA Outdoor Center in Brookston, Indiana. Blake's parents, Lori and Tony McCoy are members of Whitewater Valley REMC. Each year the camp offers students activities that include arts and crafts, canoeing, riflery, archery, wall climbing, swimming, and horseback riding. Education activities include environmental, electrical distribution and safety.

Please read Blake's winning essay below:

I love to learn new things. The way I learn new things is by reading a lot of books, but if I was chosen to go to this camp I would be getting taught new things with hands-on experience. I also love to meet new kids and make new friends. I'm very fascinated by how electric works and how humans harness its power, and how electricity is produced. I would be honored to represent Whitewater Valley REMC.

Blake Eli McCoy

Security Light Rate Change in May



As we have reported to you over the last several months, federal environmental requirements have, and will continue to mean increased electric rates. In May, an increase in security light rates

“The increase is a direct result of a change in efficiency standards and lighting products in accordance with the U.S. Federal Regulation Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAAct 2005)”

will take effect. The increase is a direct result of a change in efficiency standards and lighting products in accordance with the U.S. Federal Regulation Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAAct

2005). Specifically, as of January 1, 2008, the United States can no longer manufacture and/or import mercury vapor lamp ballasts.

Since Whitewater Valley REMC uses mercury vapor ballasts, we have switched to metal halide lamps in order to comply with the new standards. To cover the cost of the new lights, a modest increase of \$.67 per light per month is necessary.

To summarize the increase:

- The 175 watt security lights will increase 67 cents per month to \$8.98 and the 400 watt security lights will increase 67 cents per month to \$13.21.
- If you do not have a Whitewater Valley REMC security light, your monthly bill will not be affected by this increase.

On a positive note, EPAAct 2005 will improve the nation's awareness and use of lighting technology. The downside is increased costs to comply with the enforced efficiency standards. ●

For more information on EPAAct 2005 visit <http://www.energybillinfo.com>.

2008 Youth Tour Representative Chosen

Robert J. Mersch of Brookville, Indiana will represent Whitewater Valley REMC in June and travel to Washington, D.C. with other youth representatives from all over the State of Indiana. Robert is the son of Jerry and Sharon Mersch. He is homeschooled and has a grade point average of 3.7. He has been very active in 4-H, Boy Scouts, Franklin County Right to a Life, and other youth groups. He enjoys soccer, baseball, softball, music, and art. Robert's older sister, Emily, was the 2003 Youth Tour Representative for Whitewater Valley REMC.



Robert J. Mersch

This one week trip allows youth to experience our nations government and history firsthand as well as learn more about electric cooperatives. On Saturday they will tour the Gettysburg National Battlefield, spend the afternoon in Baltimore's Inner Harbor and arrive in Washington, D.C that evening. Sunday through Wednesday is a full schedule of sight seeing and meetings, including visits to the Vietnam and Korean War Memorials, Arlington National Cemetery, the National Cathedral, a collection of museums and a night cruise on the Potomac River.

Students will participate in a Monday morning "Youth Tour Rally," where they will share their thoughts and opinions on a variety of timely issues. This will prepare them for a busy Tuesday on Capitol Hill, when Indiana's students will visit with representatives of Indiana's Congressional delegation. The week will end on a high note with the "All-States Dinner Dance" at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City.

State of Indiana Geothermal Heat Pump Rebate Program

The Indiana Office of Energy & Defense Development has rolled out a Geothermal Heat Pump Residential Rebate Program to promote the use of this energy efficient heating and cooling system. The \$500,000 program will offer rebates to homeowners who replace a traditional heating and cooling system.

A Geothermal Heat Pump (GHP) uses the natural heat storage capacity of the earth to provide energy efficient heating and cooling. A GHP unit draws warmth from the earth to heat a home in winter, and discharges heat into the ground in the summer. Because a GHP moves heat instead of creating it, it uses less energy to heat a home than traditional systems. The earth's constant temperature is what makes a GHP one of the most efficient, comfortable, and quiet heating and cooling technologies.

The rebate program is being administered by the Indiana Office of Energy & Defense Development using U.S. Department of Energy funds as part of a program to increase the use of renewable energy in Indiana. Studies show that approximately 70 percent of the energy used in a geothermal heat pump system is renewable energy from the ground. The use of renewable energy is an integral part of the State's strategic energy plan, Hoosier Homegrown Energy.

Homeowners wishing to apply for the rebate must do so online at www.energy.IN.gov. A list of guidelines and an application are available. The amount of the rebate will be based on the size of the GHP system installed, with a maximum rebate of \$2,000 per installation. The program will be active until

the \$500,000 fund is exhausted. •
[The hidden account number is 208600]

Source: Indiana Office of Energy & Defense Development

Employee News

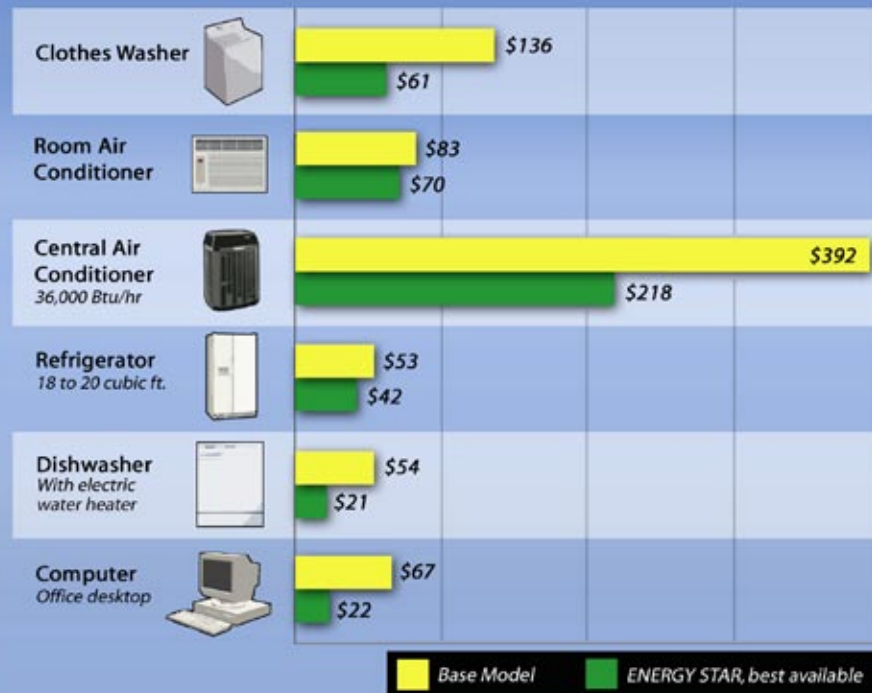
Jennifer McCreary has worked for the Whitewater Valley REMC through a temporary agency since 2006 and in January 2008 officially joined the REMC as a full-time customer service representative. She is a graduate of Union County High School and has her cosmetology license. In her spare time, Jennifer enjoys spending time with friends and family.

The staff and employees of Whitewater Valley REMC want to welcome Jennifer.



Appliance Energy Use: Annual costs to keep things running

Energy-efficient appliances can have a big impact on your electric bills. When you compare the average annual cost of operating a less efficient, base-model appliance to that of a high-efficiency, ENERGY STAR-qualified model, the difference adds up in a hurry.



Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Federal Energy Management Program, "Purchasing Specifications for Energy-Efficient Products" (March 2006)
All examples based on standard test procedures and calculated assuming an average 2007 U.S. residential electric rate of 10.9 cents per kWh



Relay brings people together from all walks of life with the common goal of eliminating cancer. No matter who you are, there's a place for you at Relay. The cooperative's team, The Electric Sliders, will be walking for a cure during the event.

Union County
Relay for Life

May 10 & 11
at the UCHS track.



Ice Storm in Wayne & Randolph Counties

On Tuesday, March 4, 2008, Whitewater Valley REMC experienced outages north of I70 in Wayne and Randolph counties due to an ice storm in the area. At the height of the storm, approximately 3,000 members were without power.

As a member of Indiana Statewide, Whitewater Valley REMC was able to call upon fellow REMCs in the state for assistance. Crews from Hoosier Energy, Butler Rural, Jay County REMC, Jackson County REMC, Boone County REMC, UDWI, Northeastern REMC, Hendricks County REMC, Orange County REMC, Southeastern REMC and United REMC came to aid our line personnel in restoring power. Over forty additional linemen were working along side our crews to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

On behalf of the directors and employees, I want to personally thank our member-owners for their patience and good will during these trying times. We appreciated hearing

your words of encouragement as our crews worked tirelessly to restore power.

A storm like the one we all suffered through is a reminder of just how much we rely on a stable source of energy, and how electricity is a fundamental part of our life. I suppose it's good to be reminded of that every now and then, just not for such extended periods of time!

Though the costs will be substantial, something more important than monetary concerns has sustained us: the spirit of cooperation exhibited by our employees, neighboring co-op line crews, local media and emergency personnel, and all who worked together so we could get through this crisis as safely as possible. Thanks to all who helped restore power safely.

We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience caused to our members by this storm and thank you for your many calls which help us locate downed lines and broken poles in the field. Rest assured that we at Whitewater

Valley REMC will go over the last several days in our minds, looking for ways to be even more responsive to the needs of our members.



Boyd Huff

President and CEO of Whitewater Valley REMC



Find the Hidden Account Number!

Dan Arndt found the hidden account number from February and won a \$25 credit. Keep reading your *Powerlines* each month or browsing our website—the next hidden account number could be yours!

April Due Dates

During April the due dates for payment of your electric bills are April 3, 10, 19 and 26.

Remember, we recommend that you allow three to five business days for the mail to reach the payment processing center. That way, you'll never run the risk of being late.

Payment Options

US Mail: Send your payment to:
Whitewater Valley REMC
P.O. Box 3199
Martinsville, IN 46151-3168

Internet: Log-on at www.wvremc.com

Liberty Office: In person or in the drop box

Automatic Withdrawal: Simply request a form and submit it to our office

FCN or Franklin County

National Bank:

In person or in the drop box
(Please bring your payment stub with you)

United Communities National Bank

Richmond Branch: In person or in the drop box
(Please bring your payment stub with you)

If you would like more information about payment options, call 765-458-5171 or 1-800-529-5557.



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