

WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC Powerlines

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC

Comments from your CEO



Boyd Huff, CEO

Capital Credits Returned in March

The Whitewater Valley Rural Electric Membership

Corporation Board of Directors authorized the retirement of \$700,000 of Capital Credits that were earned in 2010. This amount is 53% of the total capital credits for 2010.

Checks were mailed to active (current) and inactive members in March 2011. Active accounts due a capital credit distribution of less than \$10 received a credit on their electric account. Inactive accounts due a capital credit distribution of less than \$10 will roll over to future year's retirements.

The Board is excited to return a portion of your investment in your electric cooperative with this capital credit retirement. As a

member of Whitewater Valley Rural Electric Membership Corporation during 2010, you helped provide the funding to build and maintain the electric system. As a not-for-profit cooperative, any funds left over after paying the wholesale power bill and operating expenses are used for capital investments in the cooperative's facilities, as opposed to borrowing all the money needed for capital projects and to pay on existing debt. The capital credit check you received reflects your 53% portion of the 2010 margins and the remaining 47% will remain on file as capital to be repaid in future years.

The board and staff are working on plans for future retirements. Keep watching the Powerlines for news on how we are progressing with this project.

QUESTIONS FOR BOYD

My question or comment is:

Name: _____

Account No.: _____

Phone () _____

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@wwwremc.com**

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative

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

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 **1-800-776-0493**

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.



WHITEWATER VALLEY

RURAL ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

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Liberty, IN 47353
Phone: 765.458.5171
1.800.529.5557
E-mail: info@wwwremc.com

President & CEO - Boyd Huff
Powerlines Editor - Sandy Cason

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

Stay Safe Within the Lines

Whitewater Valley REMC sponsors coloring contest during National Electrical Safety Month

When it comes to coloring, children are familiar with the phrase, 'Stay within the lines.' Electricity follows that same rule. But sometimes car accidents or storms cause power lines to fall, creating a hazard. This May Whitewater Valley REMC is celebrating National Electrical Safety Month with a coloring contest that doubles as a learning opportunity.

"It's critical that we teach our children about the dangers of downed power lines," says Sandy Cason, Communications Specialist at Whitewater Valley REMC. "After a utility pole accident, should you get out of a car when power lines are on the ground? Unless a fire is involved, the answer is: No. You should wait until the utility can turn off the power."

The co-op sponsored coloring contest is for children ages 4-12. Kids can decorate the page showing a family staying in a car that has hit a utility pole. The winners will receive prizes, and a selection of entries will be posted at the cooperative's main office. The hidden account number is 857700.

Although the danger of downed power lines was the focus of the contest, children should also be aware of other electrical hazards. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, children are one of the highest risk groups for deaths in residential fires. Most of these can be avoided by taking simple safety precautions.

"Using electricity has become such a part of our children's daily lives that we may tend to take the safety of their electrical toys and appliances for granted," claims Cason. "By teaching kids about how electricity works and where it is found, we can each do our part to educate our children and prevent electrical accidents."

Help keep your children safe from indoor and outdoor electrical dangers by making sure they are familiar with these important electrical and fire safety tips for kids:

- Keep liquids, including drinks, away from electrical items such as TVs, video game consoles, and computers. They could spill and cause dangerous shocks or fires.
- Never play with electrical cords, light sockets, or electrical outlets.

- Do not overload outlets with too many plugs.
- Never yank on the cord to unplug an appliance. Hold on to the plug itself.
- Never play near substations or power transformers.
- Do not play or fly kites near power lines. If your kite gets caught in a power line, let go of the kite.
- When there is lightning, stay away from trees and get inside.

For more safety tips, visit www.safetyathome.com.

Contest Rules:

1. *Open to children ages 4-12 with one category for ages 4-7 and one category for ages 8-12. One winner from each age category will be selected from the entries.*
2. *Entry deadline is June 1, 2011*
3. *Return entries to Whitewater Valley REMC, P.O. Box 349, Liberty, IN 47353, or in person at 101 Brownsville Ave., Liberty.*

For a list of prizes log on to www.wvremc.com

Electrical Safety Calendar

Use this handy calendar to help keep your home safe. For more tips, visit esfi.org.

JANUARY

- Check and replace furnace filters

FEBRUARY

- Vacuum refrigerator coils

MARCH

- Replace smoke and carbon monoxide alarm batteries if not done in last 12 months

APRIL

- Check and replace furnace filters

MAY

- Clean air conditioners or schedule annual inspection
- Vacuum refrigerator coils

JUNE

- Dust light fixtures/lamps
- Schedule annual inspection of gas-powered dryer

JULY

- Check and replace air conditioning filters

AUGUST

- Vacuum refrigerator coils

SEPTEMBER

- Schedule annual furnace cleaning and inspection

OCTOBER

- Check and replace furnace filters

NOVEMBER

- Vacuum refrigerator coils

DECEMBER

- Dust light fixtures/lamps

ESFI recommends hiring a licensed, qualified home electrical inspector if:

Your home is more than 40 years old; your home had a major addition or renovation or major new appliance added in the last 10 years; and/or you are the new owner of a previously owned home.

Every month you should:

1. Inspect all electrical and appliance cords for damage

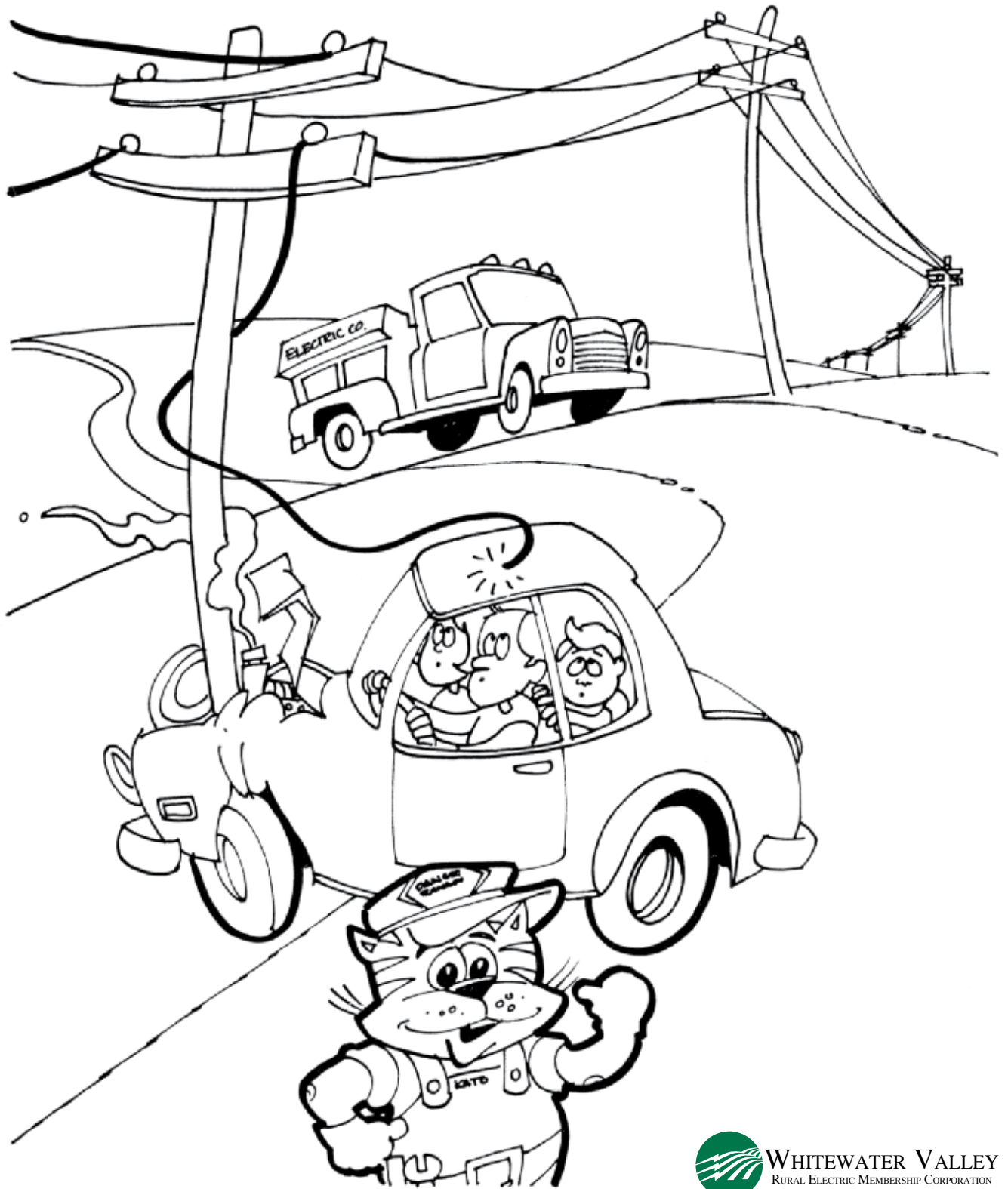
2. Test GFCIs & AFCIs

Whether you have a receptacle-type or circuit breaker-type ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI), pushing the TEST button should turn off power to the circuit. To restore power, press the RESET button. To test arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) push the TEST button. The breaker handle should go to the middle or off position. To reset, move the breaker handle to the OFF position and then to the ON position.



3. Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms

Push the TEST button or use other procedures recommended by the manufacturer. Smoke alarm batteries should be changed at least once a year. If an alarm "chirps" or "beeps" to indicate low batteries, change them right away. Replace all smoke alarms at least every 10 years.



IF ELECTRIC POWER LINES FALL ON YOUR CAR, DON'T GET OUT! STAY IN YOUR CAR UNTIL THE ELECTRIC UTILITY TURNS THE POWER OFF!

Seal Manufactured Home Air Leaks to Slash Electric Bills

If energy bills for your manufactured home seem too high, the likely culprits are air leaks. Here are some tips from Whitewater Valley REMC that can help you stop leaks from your home—and your wallet.

Older manufactured homes, especially those built before 1994, may be plagued by leaking ducts and inadequate insulation. Leaky ductwork can reduce the efficiency of your heating and cooling system by as much as 20 percent. A good time to check for leaks is on a windy day, when you'll be able to find drafty spots.

Experts recommend going after big leaks first. That means plugging all holes around chimneys, vents, water pipes, and heating system ductwork. Seal any duct leaks with mastic. Avoid the use of duct tape, which can dry out and disintegrate when used. Adding

insulation to floor, walls, and ceiling cavities can improve energy efficiency, but may be a job for a professional contractor.

Once you've sealed major leaks, look for smaller ones—around windows, doors, electrical outlets, and light switches. Seal gaps around windows and doors, using caulk on non-moving parts, and replace any worn weather stripping.

Caulk or expanding spray foam are perfect in spots where plumbing, wiring, vents and ducting penetrate through walls. Installing foam outlet gaskets behind electrical outlets and light switches—especially on outside walls—can save energy, too.

For safety's sake, make sure that all combustion appliances, such as furnaces, stoves, and water heaters, are properly vented.

For other tips on how to save energy—and money—visit www.wwwremc.com or call the efficiency experts at Whitewater Valley REMC 765-458-5171.

May CFL Winners

Congratulations to the following members! They each won a complete home CFL package from the cooperative.

May winners are:
Terry Crane, Liberty
Larry Miller, Liberty
Ronald Purcell, Lynn
Paula Warfield, Centerville
Donna Winkle, Connersville



Each month we randomly select five members to receive a complete home CFL package (while supplies last).

In addition to the drawings each month, the cooperative is giving away free CFL bulbs at the cooperative office in Liberty. There is a limit of six free bulbs per member.

For more information on CFL's and other energy saving ideas go to www.wwwremc.com and click on the Touchstone Energy Home Energy Audit link.



Check out these participating businesses and 100s more on our website at www.connections.coop

Co-Op Connections Businesses

- The Historic Lantz House Inn & Gathering Place, Centerville, IN
- Winchester Guest House Inn B&B, Winchester IN
- Green Gables B&B, Odon, IN
- Avoya Travel – Escorted Tours
- CruiseOne



Find the Hidden Account Number!

No one found the hidden account number from April. Keep reading your *Powerlines* each month or browsing our website – the next hidden account number could be yours!

May Due Dates

During May the due dates for payment of your electric bills are May 19th and 26th.

Remember, we recommend that you allow 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.wwwremc.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)

First Merchants Bank both Richmond Locations: 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.