

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC

**Comments from your CEO**



Boyd Huff, CEO

**Efficiency Upgrades are a Sure Bet**



Here is one bet I'll take every time: making energy-efficient upgrades in homes and businesses. It pays off every time.

We see prices rising on almost everything nowadays. It seems that not long ago, we could fill up our gas tanks for \$20 and grab a loaf of bread and a gallon of milk for \$2. You don't need me to tell you this, but the cost of electricity is also increasing. But I do want to tell you about the incentives we offer to help you better manage the amount of power you use every month.

In many cases, the heating and cooling systems, water heaters and appliances in our homes are costing us more than they need to. Modern equipment and major appliances are 25 percent to 50 percent more efficient than they were just a decade ago. I understand that upgrading a heat pump or replacing a water heater can be costly, but that's where we come in. We have rebate programs and other energy-

efficiency incentives to help make these improvements more affordable.

If you think about it, making an investment now will provide benefits to you in the future. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that about 43 percent of our annual energy use comes from heating and cooling our homes and businesses. Installing a high-efficiency heating and cooling system will lower that percentage and make a noticeable difference on your power bill – every month. It's a gift that keeps on giving, and it won't take long for that investment to pay for itself.

It just makes sense to take advantage of the rebate programs we offer. They make an energy-efficiency upgrade more affordable, help reduce the demand for electricity and provide benefits to the environment. Working to manage the use of electricity is a team effort. For more information on what you can do, visit Facebook.com/TeamUpToPowerDown, and "Like" the page, or visit TogetherWeSave.com. There's really no gamble when it comes to energy efficiency.

A Touchstone Energy™ Cooperative

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**For up-to-date information, visit us on the web at [www.wvwremc.com](http://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

101 Brownsville Avenue

P.O. Box 349

Liberty, IN 47353

Phone: 765.458.5171

1.800.529.5557

E-mail: [info@wvwremc.com](mailto:info@wvwremc.com)

**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@wvwremc.com](mailto:bhuff@wvwremc.com)*

**For up-to-date information, visit us on the web at [www.wvwremc.com](http://www.wvwremc.com)**

President & CEO - Boyd Huff  
 Powerlines Editor - Sandy Cason

## Whitewater Valley REMC and YOU: Topping

Have you ever seen a freshly-pruned tree in which the limbs all the way around looked like they had been amputated? The newly cut wood practically glows in the sunlight, looking like what it is—a fresh wound. This is the appearance of a tree after it has undergone “topping.” Topping is the indiscriminate cutting of tree branches to stubs or to lateral branches. It is also known as “heading,” “tipping,” “hat-racking,” or “rounding over.” Topping is perhaps the most harmful tree pruning technique known, yet it remains a common practice.

### Why is topping used?

Topping is used many times to reduce the size of the tree or to

control the tree’s shape. Although you may see this practice employed by some utilities, Whitewater Valley REMC utilizes a company with Certified Arborists on staff so that such harmful practices are not imposed on its customers.

### Why is topping so harmful?

#### • Stress

1. This technique removes 50 – 100% of the leaf-bearing crown, thus reducing the tree’s ability to produce its own nourishment. In addition, dormant buds are activated, forcing the rapid growth of multiple shoots below each cut. This increases the tree’s need for stored energy and nourishment at the same time that its ability to produce energy and nourishment are decreased. The tree is seriously weakened.

2. This technique leaves large, open wounds which are more vulnerable to insect and disease infestations. Using energy to try to defend itself against such attacks further stresses the tree.

#### • Decay

Correct pruning techniques place the cut in the correct spot on the tree so as to work with the tree’s biology to enable it to efficiently close the wound and protect itself. Topping cuts are made, as noted above, indiscriminately. This means that these cuts are made without regard to biologically correct placement, and the tree is unable to use its natural defenses to close the wound. The exposed wood begins to decay. Normally, a tree will “wall off,” or compartmentalize, decaying tissue, but with topping there are too many wounds for the tree to effectively defend itself.

#### • Sunburn

Loss of foliage allows sudden sun exposure to remaining branches and trunk that were previously shaded. This may result in sunburn of tissues beneath the bark which can lead to

cankers, bark splitting, and the death of some branches.

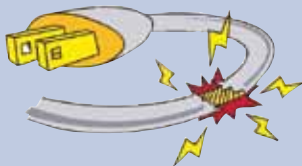
#### • Increased Risk of Limb Failure

The multiple shoots that are triggered by topping cuts are more weakly attached to the tree. They are anchored only in the outermost layers of the parent branches. Obviously, then, as these shoots grow to become limbs, they are at increased risk of breaking, or what arborists call “failure.”

In spite of all the negatives listed above, many tree workers continue to use topping as a common practice. Certified Arborists can prune your trees with pruning techniques that are correct according to ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) standards and are best for the long-term health of your tree and reduced risk to you. Whitewater Valley REMC continues to protect you from increased tree risks and hazards by utilizing a tree company led by Certified Arborist Chad Frank of Connersville. Not only could the utility’s customers appreciate that, so could the trees!

### For Your Information OUTAGES BY CAUSE

May - June 2011



Cause	Outages	
	#	%
Other	3	1.02
Unknown	3	1.02
Power Supplier	5	1.70
Vehicles/Public Activity	7	2.38
Construction/Maint	10	3.40
Member	21	7.14
Material/Equip Failure	24	8.16
Decay	27	9.18
Animals	46	15.65
Lightning/Weather	60	20.41
Trees	88	29.93
<b>Total</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>100</b>

### Whitewater Valley REMC Collecting Canned Food for Area Food Pantries

Once again the Cooperative will be collecting canned food items September 1 through December 10, 2011. There will be a large collection container in our lobby. Members will receive a free reusable shopping bag and be entered into a drawing for a \$10 bill credit for each five canned food items donated. A total of five bill credits will be given away at the end of the food drive.



The food will be delivered to local area food pantries.

## Youth Tour Representative Will Remember Trip Forever

By: Sandy Cason, Director of Member and Corporate Relations

When I asked our 2011 Youth Tour Representative Samantha Thomas what made her decide to apply for the trip she said one reason was because she had never been to Washington D.C. before. She saw this as a chance to travel, see things she had only read about in history books, and meet a lot of new people.

Samantha traveled with over 1,500 students from across the country in June to Washington D.C. for the annual Youth Tour. She has lots of favorite things from the trip, but the best was just seeing and experiencing the Nation's Capital for herself. She also described it as being kind of just thrown together with a lot of people and that forces you to interact with everybody and from that she learned a lot.

Samantha is the daughter of Tim and Mary Jo Thomas. Mary Jo is the Director of Administrative and Corporate Development at Whitewater Valley REMC. The trip began with an orientation about the cooperative utility industry. Samantha said she learned some new things about cooperatives even though her mom works at

Whitewater Valley REMC and was able to come home and tell her mom some things she didn't know.



The students also spent a day on Capitol Hill visiting their state representatives. Samantha said she found the politics interesting. Samantha states, "I went to Washington knowing very little about politics and the time on Capitol Hill will help me understand it more." She goes on to say that it was good timing because she will be old enough to vote this next year.

Samantha is a senior at Northeastern HS and plans to tell others at her school about the trip to encourage

anyone who is thinking about applying to send in an application. She states, "The trip was so worthwhile and I will remember it forever."

### September CFL Winners

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



**September winners are:**  
Thomas Delk, Fountain City  
Steven Dick, Cambridge City  
Carolyn Kraus, Cedar Grove  
John Tirey, Metamora  
Kenneth Warner, Lynn

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.wvwremc.com](http://www.wvwremc.com) and click on the Touchstone Energy Home Energy Audit link.

## Whitewater Valley REMC Community Trust, Inc. Awards

The Whitewater Valley REMC Community Trust, Inc. trustees met on July 25, 2011 to review applications for grants. More information about applications and information regarding the program can be found at [www.wvwremc.com](http://www.wvwremc.com).

### The board awarded grants to the following organizations:

- Birth-to-Five - \$350 for expenses copy new curricula to serve families in Wayne County
- Communités in Schools of Wayne County - \$1,000 for funding their dropout prevention program
- Earlham College for Chanticleer String Quartet - \$500 to help fund ten performances of the program IMAGINE for elementary students
- Family Connections/Ripley County Family Services - \$300 for expenses for their Welcome Baby gift bags
- Fayette County Free Fair Banjo & Fiddle Contest - \$500 to help with expenses of contest for free entertainment
- Historic Metamora, Inc. - \$500 for funding of two presentations during pioneer lifestyles event
- Northeastern Elementary School - 6th grade science - \$300 for a study of kinetic & potential energy for 6th graders
- Richmond Symphony Orchestra - \$1,600 for a three arts concert presentation for Wayne County
- Special Olympics Indiana-Franklin County - \$1,107 for bowling tournament
- Youth as Resources of Wayne County - \$750 for YES - Youth Empowered to Serve - youth leadership development

## Interested in Serving the Cooperative?

The governing body of Whitewater Valley Rural Electric Cooperative is a nine-member board of directors, which meets monthly to decide on policies, review cooperative business, and make decisions affecting the entire cooperative.

The cooperative's service territory is divided into three districts. Each district is represented by three board members. The hidden account number is 259000.

The Nominating Committee members meet each year to consider all members who are interested in running for the board. This year, the Nominating Committee meeting will be held at the cooperative office, 101 Brownsville Avenue, Liberty in December.

For additional information on becoming a board member for Whitewater Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, complete the Board Interest Form below or download the application at [www.vremc.com](http://www.vremc.com) under the my cooperative section, Board of Directors, and **return to Dave Williamson, Nominating Committee Chair, at 9442 WE Oler Road, Williamsburg, IN 47393.**

### Board of Directors Interest Card

(Please answer all items below. **Return by November 1, 2011.**)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Work

Address of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

Township of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_ County of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in the opportunity of being nominated as a member of the Board of Directors for Whitewater Valley Rural Electric Corporation and would appreciate receiving additional information regarding the nominating process.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### Nominating Committee

Name	Districts	Name	Districts
Gary Ruf	South	Beth Houghland	Central
Odell Calihan	South	Duane Cates	North
Sherrri Gettinger	South	Robert Nocton	North
David Stanley	Central	Dave Williamson	North
Robert Westover	Central		



### Find the Hidden Account Number!

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

### September Due Dates

During September the due dates for payment of your electric bills are September 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.vvremc.com](http://www.vvremc.com)

**Liberty Office:** In person or in the drop box

**Automatic Withdrawal:** Simply request a form or download at [www.vvremc.com](http://www.vvremc.com) 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.

Residential Off-Season Rate in Effect  
for September, October and November Usage

