



WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC

POWERLINES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC



Above: Lineman Brad Wildman fills up the Blessing Box in Connersville with employee donations.

COMMENTS FROM YOUR CEO

Welcome 2019



MARY JO THOMAS
CEO

First, I would like to wish you all a very healthy and happy 2019. We are excited to begin the New Year because 2019 marks the 25th year since the consolidation of two Indiana cooperatives to form Whitewater Valley REMC. We have plans to celebrate throughout the year and are working on details of the 2019 Annual Meeting. Our theme is 'A Celebration of Success'.

As part of the celebration, the cooperative will perform 25 Acts of Kindness over the next twelve months. To kick off this special project WWVREMC employees held a food drive. The Blessing Boxes in Connersville were filled with the employee donations.

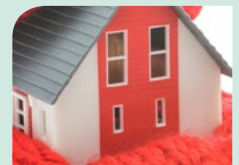
Finally, we are excited to show you a preliminary draft of a new WWVREMC logo (see article and design on page 2). Work on the new logo began several months ago and we continue to tweak the final design as I write this article. Members will begin seeing the new WWVREMC logo on all print and electronic material from the cooperative. The hidden account number is 74701. The official roll-out of the new logo will take place during the 2019 Annual Meeting on March 4.

Please join us as we celebrate. You – the consumer-members of WWVREMC are the reason of our success. Thank you and Happy New Year.

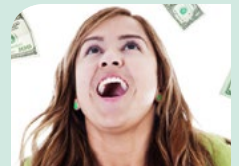
WHAT'S NEW IN JANUARY



PAGE 2 New Year, New Logo for the Cooperative; Save the Date for the 2019 Annual Meeting; Downed and Dangerous



PAGE 3 Is your home ready for winter?



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New Year, New Logo for the Cooperative

As part of our 25th Celebration, WWVREMC is rolling out a new logo (below). It will start showing up on all cooperative bills, newsletters, social media outlets, annual meeting notices, and the website.

Tell us what you think!

We would love to hear any feedback you might have for us. You can find us on the web at www.wvremc.com, and if you want to let us know what you think email us at info@wvremc.com or call our office at 800-529-5557.



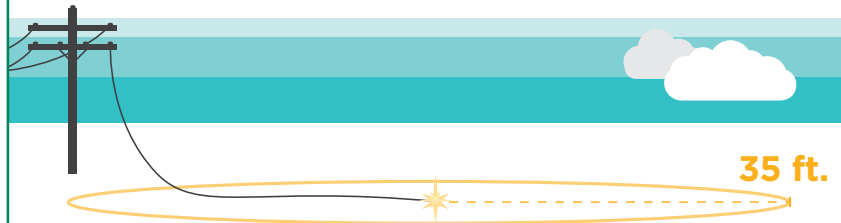
SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting

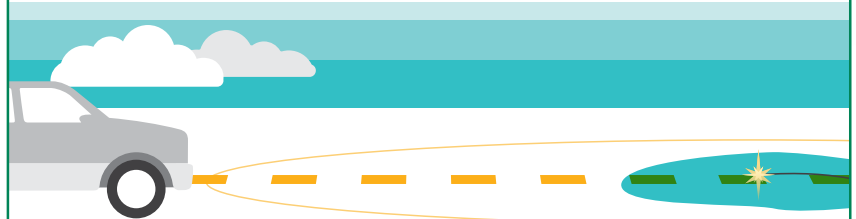
March 4, 2019

Downed and Dangerous

If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.



Downed power lines can energize the ground up to **35 ft.** away – so keep your distance.



Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.



Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is deenergized or if you're using a non-conductive item – this will not prevent injury or death!

Source: ESFI.org



Is your home

ready for winter?

Follow these tips to ensure maximum savings through the winter.

If you haven't already, conduct an energy audit to find out where you can save the most, and consider making a larger investment for long-term energy savings.

Take advantage of heat from the sun.

- Open curtains on your south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home and close them at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.

Cover drafty windows.

- Use a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of your window frames during the cold winter months. Make sure the plastic is sealed tightly to the frame to help reduce infiltration.
- Install tight-fitting, insulating drapes or shades on windows that feel drafty after weatherizing.

Adjust the temperature.

- When you are home and awake, set your thermostat as low as is comfortable
- When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat back 10° to 15° for eight hours and save around 10% a year on your heating and cooling bills. A smart or programmable thermostat can make it easy to set back your temperature.
- If you have a heat pump, maintain a moderate setting or use a programmable thermostat specially designed for use with heat pumps.

Find and seal leaks.

- Seal the air leaks around utility cut-throughs for pipes ("plumbing penetrations"), gaps around chimneys and recessed lights in insulated ceilings, and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.
- Add caulk or weather stripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.

Maintain your heating systems.

- Schedule service for your heating system.
- Furnaces and heat pumps: Replace your filter once a month or as needed.
- Wood- and Pellet-Burning Heaters: Clean the flue vent regularly and clean the inside of the appliance with a wire brush periodically to ensure that your home is heated efficiently.

Reduce heat loss from the fireplace.

- Keep your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning. Keeping the damper open is like keeping a window wide open during the winter; it allows warm air to go right up the chimney.
- When you use the fireplace, reduce heat loss by opening dampers in the bottom of the firebox (if provided) or open the nearest window slightly--approximately 1 inch--and close doors leading into the room. Lower the thermostat setting to between 50° and 55°F.
- If you never use your fireplace, plug and seal the chimney flue.
- If you do use the fireplace, install tempered glass doors and a heat-air exchange system that blows warmed air back into the room.
- Check the seal on the fireplace flue damper and make it as snug as possible.
- Purchase grates made of C-shaped metal tubes to draw cool room air into the fireplace and circulate warm air back into the room.
- Add caulking around the fireplace hearth.

Lower your water heating costs.

- Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F). You'll not only save energy, you'll avoid scalding your hands.

Lower your lighting costs.

- Use light-emitting diode -- or "LED" -- lights.

Source: Dept. of Energy



FIND THE HIDDEN ACCOUNT NUMBER

No December winner!

There was no winner for the month of December. Be sure to keep reading each month because the next hidden account number and \$25 bill credit could be yours!

JANUARY DUE DATES

During January, the due dates for payment of your electric bills are **January 19** and **26**. 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

Whitewater Valley REMC,
P.O. Box 3199, Martinsville, IN 46151-3168

SmartHub

Log-on at www.wvwremc.com

Pay-by-Phone

Call 844-827-4759. Set up your PIN. Follow prompts.

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. (Bring payment stub.)

First Merchants Bank (Richmond Location)

In person or in the drop box. (Bring payment stub.)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PAYMENT OPTIONS, PLEASE CALL US:

765-458-5171 or **1-800-529-5557**

January Bill Credit Winners

Our monthly drawing for additional bill credit winners continues. Five names will be drawn each month from all attending members of the 2018 annual meeting for a total of sixty bill credits by the time we host our 2019 Annual Meeting. Thanks for helping us **Create Connections...Together** and attending the membership meeting! Here are the January winners.

Iris Eisenhour, Union City
Elizabeth Dixon, West Harrison
Jack Sasser, Liberty
Randy Sperry, Hagerstown
Ronald Stolle, Richmond



OUTAGES BY CAUSE OCTOBER 2018

Cause	#	%
Trees	47	38.21
Animals	19	15.45
Lightning/Weather	18	14.63
Decay	11	8.94
Material/Equip. Failure	8	6.50
Member	7	5.69
Vehicles/Public Activity	7	5.69
Construction/Maint.	4	3.25
Unknown	2	1.63
Total	123	100

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

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MAIL

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

FAX: (202) 690-7442; or

EMAIL: program.intake@usda.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

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. Login to your SmartHub account or sign up for outage texting at www.wvwremc.com.

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.

WHITWATER VALLEY REMC

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P.O. Box 349
Liberty, IN 47353

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1-800-529-5557

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RURAL ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

President & CEO - *Mary Jo Thomas*
Powerlines Editor - *Sandy Cason*

