



# POWERLINES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC



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### JUNE DUE DATES

The due dates  
for payment of  
electric bills are  
**June 19 and 26.**



**MARY JO THOMAS**  
CEO

and push for policies that ensure reliable, affordable electricity for rural America.

Number one on the list is reliability and our opposition to the Environmental Protection Agency's new power plant rule, which was released the day after we returned home.

Our ask is to oppose this rule that puts "the cart before the horse" and demands resource changes before the technology is viable and ready for change. We are not against change, but it must be well thought out and planned to coincide with goals for reliability and affordability. Our resource capacity is already strained in high-demand times during the winter and the summer. These proposed changes have caused cooperative energy leaders to worry about maintaining our most important goal of keeping the lights on 24/7, 365 days per year.

As part of the largest infrastructure investment since the Rural Electrification Act in 1936, Congress included a provision for funding from the bipartisan infrastructure law and the Inflation Reduction Act that created the Empowering Rural America (New ERA) program. We talked to our elected officials about maintaining these financial resources available exclusively to electric cooperatives for innovation and adopting new technologies to move resource portfolios toward a well-balanced portfolio. The New ERA program has \$9.7 billion available specifically for cooperatives. The

cooperative network has embraced this opportunity by turning in applications totaling over \$46 billion in projects. Locally, we applied, and so did our G&T, Hoosier Energy. Whether anything comes of our application has yet to be seen, but Hoosier Energy has moved forward to the next step. We all look forward to the opportunity and the outcome of successful projects that will be valuable to our members and will be a learning opportunity for our industry. Our ask on this front was that these program dollars remain available and are not reduced.

Members of our delegation were also asked to be aware of any attempts to put legislation in place that would harm our local ability to manage pole contacts. As many large providers look to build in our territory, we need to retain our local control over scheduling any needed pole contacts and pole replacements to accommodate their building of broadband to our members. Large for-profit companies would like to standardize costs and minimize their expenses by putting specific rules in place with limits different from our locally designed procedures and costs. We are opposed to this because it can cost our members money in this process. To date, we have worked well with these companies, but that hasn't been true everywhere, so we joined with our sister cooperatives to bring this message to legislators.

While in D.C., we were able to meet with eight different Indiana legislative offices, and our messages were well received. We will continue to build relationships and have conversations with our state and federal legislators to keep our concerns fresh in their minds, but we also encourage you to do the same. Make your voice heard at [action.indianaec.org](https://action.indianaec.org). This website allows you to sign up to find your legislators and connect with them to share your views. That personal relationship is important, and we have found success in maintaining those relationships. We encourage you to do the same and be a voice with and for your co-op.

# Operation Round Up **NEWS**



Whitewater Valley REMC's Operation Round Up awarded \$16,125 to 24 community organizations in the first half of 2024.

## THE FOLLOWING LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVED GRANTS:

**Amigos the Richmond Latino Center, Inc. \$1,000**

Career Exploration Summer Camp

**Boys Scouts of America, Cambridge City IN \$750**

Summer Camp

**Business Professionals of America \$325**

Registration fee for state leadership conference

**College Corner Union School \$1,000**

Weekend food program for students

**Dublin Community Club \$500**

Replace HVAC systems

**Every Child Can Read, Inc. \$1,000**

The summer bookmobile

**Family Earth Day Celebration \$500**

Environmental education fair

**Fayette County Soil and Water Conservation District \$500**

Native plant seeds for John Conner Nature Preserve

**Friends of the Union County Library \$750**

Imagination Library

**Gateway Hunger Relief Center \$800**

Four hand carts

**Girl Scouts of Wayne & Union Counties \$1,000**

Voter registration booths to promote Indiana voting

**Hagerstown Jr. Sr. High School Counseling Department \$500**

Prom dresses for "Prom Closet"

**LHS Class of 2025 \$500**

Lincoln High 2024 after prom

**Liberty Elementary Kindergarten \$500**

Field trip to Boonshoft Museum

**Liberty Volunteer Fire Department \$500**

Smoke detectors to give away

**Northeastern After Prom \$500**

2024 after prom

**Play in the Park \$500**

Carnival Day at Play in the Park

**Randolph County Youth Leadership Council \$500**

Scholarships

**Salt of the Earth, Inc. \$500**

Addictive drug and lead test kits

**St. Michael School \$1,000**

3D printers and filament

**UCHS Parent After-Prom Committee \$500**

After prom

**Union Co AG Day & Union Co Soil & Water Conservation District \$1,000**

An educational event for 3rd graders to experience agriculture

**Union County Rabbit Club \$1,000**

Replace and increase the number of cages

**Union County Youth League \$500**

Build equipment shed

A few cents can make a big impact. If you want to help support local organizations in your community, you can now sign up directly on our website to participate. Also, remember the **next deadline for ORU applications is July 8**. To enroll in our program or find an application, visit: [www.remcc.com/operation-round-up](http://www.remcc.com/operation-round-up).



# Facility update

We are happy to announce that we will officially be in our new building to serve you on Monday, June 24. We have been so pleased with our partner, Cooperative Building Solutions (or CBS for short), and their project management. Our facility committee has worked many hours to ensure everything is coming together as expected. Below are some pictures taken in May of the progress. We can't wait for you to see it! As a reminder, our office will be closed on Friday, June 21st, as we prepare to move into the new building.



**Save THE  
Date**

Whitewater Valley REMC's Shedding Light on Hunger Charity Golf Tournament will be at the Liberty Country Club on Saturday, July 27. The tournament's purpose is to support our Shedding Light on Hunger program, which provides food to hungry Hoosiers in our service territory. We will soon share information on flag sponsors, prize donors, and golf teams. Keep an eye out for more details on this exciting event! The hidden account number is 276101.

## HIDDEN ACCOUNT NUMBER

Each month we hide an account number in the Powerlines. Did you find it?

## NO APRIL WINNER

Keep reading your Powerlines each month. The next hidden account number could be yours!

## PAYMENT OPTIONS

### U.S. Mail

Whitewater Valley REMC, P.O. Box 350  
Liberty, IN 47353

### SmartHub

Log on at [www.vremc.com](http://www.vremc.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.

### VanillaDirect

Visit [vanilladirect.com](http://vanilladirect.com) for payment locations and details.

For more information about payment options, please call us:

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

## 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.  
Log in to your SmartHub account and report your outage.

### 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.



## BILL CREDIT WINNERS

This month begins our monthly drawing for five \$20 bill credits from all voting members of the 2024 annual meeting. Here are the winners.

### JUNE

**Amanda Harms**, Centerville

**Roger Williams**, Liberty

**Charlotte Lady**, Richmond

**John Iverson**, Centerville

**John Cook**, Farmland

## FIREWORKS DISPLAY *sponsor*

We are excited to announce that we are sponsoring alongside Butler Rural Electric Cooperative the July 4th Fireworks show at the Stateline Ballpark, located inside The Town Grove in West College Corner, IN. The event will be a fun-filled day with food, games, and music, followed by a spectacular fireworks display. Remember to mark your calendars so you can experience the fun!



**Our office will be closed  
on July 4 in observance  
of Independence Day.**



101 Brownsville Avenue, P.O. Box 349, Liberty, IN 47353  
765-458-5171 • 1-800-529-5557 • [www.vremc.com](http://www.vremc.com) • [info@www.vremc.com](mailto:info@www.vremc.com)  
President & CEO - Mary Jo Thomas • Powerlines Editor - Jennifer Scott