



POWERLINES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC

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NOVEMBER DUE DATES

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

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

THANKSGIVING AND HOLIDAY SAFETY AND SAVINGS



MARY JO THOMAS
CEO

As November kicks off, it's hard to believe we'll soon be gathering with family and friends to celebrate the holiday season. I like to take time to consider my blessings this time of year, and as we gather for Thanksgiving with our families, it is the perfect time to share those blessings with others. Whether that is donating to food banks or asking someone without family to the family gathering, it is always better to give than to receive.

At your cooperative, we are preparing for the return of capital credits in December, and along with that is the opportunity to give back to the Operation Round Up fund. Many of you already give every month by rounding up your bill. We thank you for that and the impact your small change has on lives in the Whitewater Valley. With the amount you receive for capital credits this year, you can send that check back to the Operation Round Up fund or even indicate that you would like to have that donation happen automatically each year. Please see the Operation Round Up article for more information.

This festive time of year brings joy and warmth, but as the weather gets cooler and we spend more time indoors, the holidays can also bring increased energy use and a higher risk of electrical and fire hazards.

As your local electric cooperative, our team at WVVREMC cares about your wellbeing. This month, I would like to share a few practical tips to help you stay safe and efficient during the holiday season.

SAFETY FIRST.

My family truly enjoys decorating our home for the holidays. Before we deck the halls, I always check electrical cords and light strands to make sure they aren't

frayed or damaged. Knowing our holiday lights are ready to safely brighten our home gives us peace of mind. I also double-check the lights we use outside to make sure they're rated for outdoor use.

'TIS THE SEASON FOR SAVINGS.

Speaking of lights, your family can also save energy by decorating with LED holiday lights. LEDs are the most energy-efficient lighting options available, and they last much longer than traditional bulbs.

Spending more time indoors with a few more guests can really impact home energy use. By taking a few small steps to save energy during the holiday season, you can lower your bills.

I like to remind my family members to mind the thermostat. Since heating and cooling makes up the majority of home energy consumption, the thermostat is one of the best places for savings. Lower it a few degrees, especially when you have family or friends stopping by. Good company brings additional warmth to your home.

There's no denying one of the best parts of the holiday season is the food — not just the meals but the time we spend together in the kitchen. One of the best approaches is to cook with smaller countertop appliances, such as air fryers, slow cookers and toaster ovens. These handy appliances consume a fraction of the energy used to heat the oven, creating the perfect recipe for mealtime and energy savings.

I hope you will implement some of these energy-saving and safety tips into your holiday plans. For additional advice, visit our Facebook page facebook.com/WhitewaterValleyREMC. We share a lot of safety information and saving tips all year round.

From your friends at WVVREMC, we hope your holiday season is full of blessings.

GENERATOR SAFETY

Our lives are on the line



The safety of our members and our employees is a top priority at WWVREMC, especially during dangerous times. When storms impact our area, we rush to your aid as soon as weather conditions allow our lineworkers to travel and make repairs safely.

Our line crews take necessary precautions before they work on downed power lines. First, they verify a circuit has been de-energized, and that proper switches are opened and tagged to isolate the circuit from the system. We place grounds on the circuit — on both sides of workers — to make sure the line cannot be energized while work is being done.

But even after these measures, our workers' lives remain in your hands.

WWVREMC is proud of our outstanding safety record, but sometimes, no matter how many steps we take to keep everyone safe, the very people we are there to help unknowingly put our lives—and their own — in danger.

Portable generators, widely used when power lines are down, can prove fatal to lineworkers and your neighbors when used improperly.

Of course, no one would ever purposely cause the death of a lineworker. Nevertheless, a generator connected to a home's wiring or plugged into a regular household outlet can cause backfeeding along power lines and

electrocute anyone who comes in contact with them — even if the line seems de-energized.

WWVREMC employees are not the only ones in danger when a portable generator is used improperly. Generator owners themselves may be at risk of electrocution, fire, property damage or carbon monoxide poisoning if they do not follow the necessary safety rules.

Portable generators can be very helpful during outages. But we urge you to follow these safety guidelines when using one:

- **Never connect a generator directly to your home's wiring unless your home has been wired for generator use.** This can cause backfeeding along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including lineworkers making repairs. Have a licensed electrician install the equipment necessary to safely connect emergency generators to your home.
- **Always plug appliances directly into generators.** Connecting the generator to your home's circuits or wiring must be done by a qualified, licensed electrician who will install a transfer switch to prevent backfeeding.
- **Use heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords.** Make sure extension cords are free of cuts or tears and the

plug has three prongs. Overloaded cords can cause fires or equipment damage.

- **Ensure your generator is properly grounded.**
- **Never overload a generator.** A portable generator should only be used when necessary to power essential equipment or appliances.
- **Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting it down.**
- **Keep the generator dry.** Operate it on a dry surface under an open structure.
- **Always have a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby.**
- **Never refuel a generator while it is operating.**
- **Read and adhere to the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation.** Never cut corners when it comes to generator safety.

We encourage you to protect the well-being and safety of your family during outages, and safeguard those who come to your aid during emergency situations. When we work together for safety and the good of our communities, we all benefit.

Do you have a generator? If yes, please fill out the included bill insert and return it to our office. Thank you!

Tips for a Safe and Efficient Holiday Season

This holiday season, keep energy savings and electrical safety in mind.

SAVE ENERGY

- Use smaller appliances like slow cookers instead of the oven.
- Lower the thermostat when hosting friends and family.
- Decorate with energy-saving LED lights.

PRIORITIZE SAFETY

- Never leave unattended candles burning.
- Ensure all smoke alarms are working.
- When decorating, inspect all light strands and cords for damage.

Employee Spotlight



NEW EMPLOYEE

We are excited to introduce our newest Apprentice Lineman, Andrew Cross, who recently graduated from the North American Lineman Training Center in McEwen, Tennessee. Andrew is from the small town of Sandborn in Southern Indiana and a proud North Knox High School graduate in Bicknell, IN. He brings multiple certifications from the North American Lineman Training Center, including Pole-Top Rescue, Bucket Truck Operation, and CPR/First Aid.

He loves the outdoors and enjoys golfing, fishing, hunting, and working on small wood projects. Summer is his favorite season, and he prefers his coffee black. He takes pride in overcoming life's challenges, especially in graduating from line school and joining our team.

His greatest fear is not doing enough, but he always strives to push beyond his limits. He values getting to know people and their stories, which makes him a fantastic addition to our team.

The directors and employees of WWVREMC extend a warm welcome to Andrew as he joins our cooperative.

CONGRATULATIONS

We want to congratulate Luke Gridley on his promotion from Technology Assistant to Cybersecurity and IT Analyst. Additionally, we would like to congratulate Rod West, Chairman of the WWVREMC board, for recently earning his Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). We appreciate both of your dedication to our Cooperative.

OPERATION ROUND UP® FALL CAMPAIGN

Our fall campaign began in October! If you sign up anytime from October through December 31st, you will be entered for a chance to win a "Relax and Capture the Moment" basket.

Already a monthly contributor to Operation Round Up? No problem! You can still make a one-time extra donation to participate in the fall campaign drawing.

To be eligible for the prize, submit your pledge before Dec. 31, 2024. The winner will be selected from all entries and announced on Facebook Live at the end of the campaign.

**Yes! I want
to help our
community.**



**Sign me up for
Operation Round-Up®**

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER

ACCOUNT NUMBER

- ☐ New participant, round-up my monthly bill.
- ☐ In addition to my round up, I want to contribute \$_____ each month to Operation Round Up®. (Fill in the additional dollar amount to be added to monthly electric bill.)
- ☐ I want to make a one-time contribution. My check is enclosed.

Send your completed form to
Whitewater Valley REMC,
P.O. Box 349, Liberty, IN 47353.

HIDDEN ACCOUNT NUMBER

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

NO SEPTEMBER 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.

Pay-by-Phone

Call 855-940-3859. 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.

Franklin County National Bank (FCN)

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

VanillaDirect

Visit 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

New location is 1201 S. State Road 101,
Liberty, IN 47353

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

Our monthly drawing for five \$20 bill credits from all voting members of the 2024 annual meeting continues. Here are the winners.

NOVEMBER

Sara Moyer, Greens Fork

Daniel Vanduyne, Richmond

Marvin Heacox, Greens Fork

Charles Haager, Richmond

James Alderson, Centerville

2024 REBATE DEADLINE APPROACHING

The deadline for our 2024 incentives is approaching fast. Members should submit their requests for equipment rebates that qualify under the WVVREMC 2024 incentive program by Dec. 15, 2024.

Information about the incentives for 2025 will be announced later in our newsletter and on our website. The hidden account number is 1564202.



We're Grateful for Your Membership!

Our offices will be closed

Monday, November 11,
Thursday, November 28, and
Friday, November 29,

in observance of Veterans Day, and the Thanksgiving holiday.

From our co-op family to yours, we hope you
have a wonderful Thanksgiving!



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