



WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC

# POWERLINES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC



## COMMENTS FROM YOUR CEO

# Safety Above All Else



MARY JO THOMAS  
CEO

“Safety” is a universal word that is mentioned often and used loosely. Communities large and small as well as companies across all industries are committed to safety. Sports leagues, at every level, take safety seriously. Unfortunately, when

it really counts, steps to keep the public, workers, athletes and loved ones safe are often ignored in the interest of expediency or convenience.

However, safety is a serious issue, especially when it comes to electrical safety. For WWVREMC, it's the number one priority. This is not empty talk. Over time, WWVREMC has created a culture of safety by putting our employees' safety and that of the community above all else. At the end of the day, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to

our member-owners, but equally important, we want to return our workers home safely to their loved ones. To do this requires ongoing focus, dedication and vigilance.

## Following leading national safety standards

Working with electricity is an inherently dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. WWVREMC has a safety team whose focus is keeping employees and the community safe around electricity. We established and follow safety protocols based on leading national safety practices for the utility industry. We require our lineworkers to wear specialized equipment when working next to or with power lines. There are specific protocols that our lineworkers follow when dealing with electricity. Our safety team has regular meetings where they discuss upcoming projects from a

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WHAT'S NEW IN MAY



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## Spring cleaning can score you a \$50 rebate and help support our community

That old fridge or freezer in your garage can add about \$150 to your power bills each year. Clear out your space, save energy, get a **\$50 REBATE** and support your community by participating in our Appliance Recycling program!

Your cooperative partners with Habitat for Humanity

to recycle these appliances. Once you've scheduled a pick-up time that's convenient for you, a Habitat for Humanity ReStore truck will come to haul away the old fridge or freezer for FREE. The nonprofit delivers it to recyclers and uses the funds received to help grateful Habitat participants in our community.

The program is good for the environment, too. The materials from every old appliance are recycled appropriately for reuse. And the electricity that was once used to power that old fridge or freezer is used more efficiently.

Spring cleaning or not, appliance recycling is good housekeeping!

*Contact us to learn about the qualifications and to schedule your pickup!*

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When streaming online content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

## Memorial Day Office Closing

Our office will be closed on Monday, May 28, in observation of Memorial Day.

Enjoy a safe and fun holiday with your family and friends while keeping in mind the brave soldiers who gave their lives for our country.

## OUTAGES BY CAUSE FEBRUARY 2018

Cause	#	%
Trees	19	32.20
Decay	11	18.64
Lightning/Weather	9	15.25
Member	7	11.86
Material/Equipment Failure	4	6.78
Animals	4	6.78
Vehicles/Public Activity	3	5.08
Other	1	1.69
Construction/Maintenance	1	1.69
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100</b>

## TREES WERE THE NUMBER ONE CAUSE OF OUTAGES IN FEBRUARY

Tree limbs and power lines aren't good neighbors—especially during storm season. Limbs that touch power lines can cause power outages.

WVREMC regularly trims trees to help prevent power outages from occurring during severe weather. You can reduce the need to trim trees in the future by careful planning when selecting and planting new trees. Be sure to look up and consider mature heights of the tree you are planting in relation to power lines.

# Whitewater Valley REMC's Operation Round Up® grants funding to local organizations

## FIRST QUARTER 2018 GRANTS AWARDED

The Whitewater Valley REMC Community Trust, Inc.'s Board for the Operation Round Up® program disbursed \$8,551 to 16 organizations in the Whitewater Valley REMC service area.

Checks were presented by Whitewater Valley REMC Community Trust, Inc. board members Bruce Cowen and Carol McQueen in January.

The next deadline for Operation Round Up® applications is July 9, 2018. Applications are available online at [www.wvwremc.com](http://www.wvwremc.com).

### The following local organizations received grants during the first quarter of 2018:

- **College Corner School Robotics Club**  
*\$261 to purchase parts for robots for competitions*
- **Edwards Memorial United Methodist Church**  
*\$250 towards youth mission trip to Red Bird Work Camp*
- **Haven**  
*\$225 towards "Food for Life Skills" after school program*
- **Ivy Tech Foundation, Inc.**  
*\$500 to purchase gas cards for student transportation*
- **Laurel Police Department**  
*\$1,000 toward purchase of training firearms*
- **Laurel Volunteer Fire Dept**  
*\$2,000 toward upgrading medical equipment and truck*
- **Metamora Volunteer Fire Dept.**  
*\$1,200 to purchase fire hose fittings and appliances*
- **Northeastern After Prom Committee**  
*\$500 to fund "After Prom" activities*
- **Randolph Southern Kindergarten**  
*\$576 to purchase supplies for "Cooking with Kindergarten" program. The hidden account number 982108.*
- **Union County High School After Prom**  
*\$500 to fund "After Prom" activities*
- **Union County Middle School**  
*\$314 toward travel expenses for a trip to Washington, D.C.*
- **Union County Soil & Water**  
*\$300 toward Union County Ag Day activities*
- **Wayne County Cardinal Greenway**  
*\$425 to purchase bicycle racks for trail heads*
- **Wayne County Special Olympics**  
*\$500 donation for polar plunge participants*

## Creating Connections together

Watch for an annual meeting recap in the June issue of *Powerlines*!



### FIND THE HIDDEN ACCOUNT NUMBER

**Larry Hensley wins!**

Larry Hensley found his hidden account number in the February newsletter and won a \$25 bill credit. 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 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](http://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**

# ELECTRICAL SAFETY: THINK OUTSIDE THE HOME



Dusting off outdoor cleaning tools and getting ready to give some much-needed TLC to your home and yard? Learn how to stay electrically safe outdoors.

When starting projects that require power tools, always ensure your outdoor outlets are up to standards and include ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). If you're using an extension cord, do not use unless it is labeled "for outdoor use."

- Inspect power tools before and after each use.
- Replace or repair worn or defective equipment immediately.
- Keep tools and the area you're working on clean to avoid fire hazards, and always store them in a dry place.
- Never use electric tools or mowers in wet areas.



## COMMENTS FROM YOUR CEO continued

safety perspective. They monitor and track near-misses of accidents in order to understand them, share "lessons learned" and improve in the future.

As importantly, we encourage all of our crews to speak up and hold each other accountable for safety. By cultivating a culture of openness and transparency, we promote problem-solving with regard to safety, rather than defaulting to a blame game. We examine the information and data gleaned from near-misses and accident reports to discern patterns and use safety metrics to improve in those areas where we have fallen short. As appropriate, we brief contractors on our safety protocols and set expectations for their engagement.

### Keeping the community safe

Because we live and work in the community we serve, we care about our neighbors. WWVREMC conducts electrical safety demonstrations

in schools and for community events.

May is National Electrical Safety Month. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation, each year thousands of people in the United States are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes.

Many of these accidents are preventable. There is much you can do to keep yourself and your community safe around electricity.

Don't attempt electrical DIY projects or overload your outlets. Report downed power lines, unlocked substations or padmount transformers that look amiss. Contact WWVREMC for additional electrical safety tips. If you would like us to provide a safety demonstration at your school or community event, contact [scason@wwvremc.com](mailto:scason@wwvremc.com). Pause and take the extra time to plug into safety.

## HELPFUL INFORMATION

### Liberty Office Hours

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. *Monday through Friday*

**CLOSED SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS.**

*We will be closed Monday, May 28 in observance of Memorial Day.*

### 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.wwvremc.com](http://www.wwvremc.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.

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