JULY 2024

POWERLINES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC'S FIELD OF DREAMS



MARY JO THOMAS

On June 24, 2024, we opened our doors at our new facility at 1201 S. State Rd. 101, just south of Liberty.

This project has been a long time coming, and we had been looking for land to build on for years. In 2020, that finally came to be when we bought

20 acres in a farm field along Highway 101 just north and across the road from the Whitewater State Park entrance. There were many times that I would drive out to the park entrance and look across the road to the north to imagine a new facility there.

Our cooperative has come a long way from our original two co-ops. Wayne County REMC started in a room of the Wayne County Farm Bureau, and Fayette-Union was located above the Driggs Shoe Store in Liberty. The current red brick building was built back in the 1950s, and the Operations building was built in 1965. Then it expanded in the 1980s. The red brick building was remodeled in 1996 after the consolidation of the new cooperative, Whitewater Valley. In 2021, we acquired the property next to the red brick building in a tax sale and made some improvements. It has helped us with storage and will be an added feature to the property when we get ready to sell. We own a little over 15,000 sq ft of building space at these current properties, including six vehicle bays on 2.3 acres. We rent another building and two other open lots for storage of materials. Employees are split between the two buildings.

The new facility sits on approximately nine acres a mile and a half south of Liberty, with just over 33,000 sq. ft. under roof. It houses all employees, has a hardened storm shelter and dispatch center, a warehouse, 12 vehicle bays, and a multipurpose room that will serve as a board room,



an all-employees meeting room, or can be split into two training/meeting rooms. All materials, including fuel, is on site in one location and behind secure fencing. The lot has ample room for maneuvering trucks and parking for contractors and visiting crews. Members will have a lobby or drive-thru access to conduct business. We have left an existing storage barn up for extra cold storage shelter, and we own ten more acres to the south for future expansion.

What a journey this has been. We had a groundbreaking on June 27, 2023, and dirt started moving as soon as all the formalities were in place. I 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 all is coming together as expected. CBS promised and accomplished an on-time and on-budget project. The budget amount we planned for and included in the last cost of service is the cost, which is calculated to be \$3.50 per account per month.

While construction has been going on this past year, in our old facilities we cleaned and purged years' worth of information from file cabinets, storage areas, attics, etc. Working down to what needed to be moved to our new home. Everyone chipped in, and we accomplished our move on June 21 and 22. Once we get settled, we look forward to hosting an open house later this year to show you the new facility. In the meantime, we are open for business at 1201 S. State Rd. 101.

Our dream has become reality!

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JULY DUE DATES

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



2024 LINEMAN RODEO



The Indiana Electric Cooperative Lineman Rodeo is back for its third year in 2024!

This year's events will take place on August 22-23. We are excited to share that three of our linemen, Brad Wildman, Abrem Losekamp, and Ryan Chappell, will participate this year. Additionally, our line superintendent, Sam Woeste, will be one of the judges. Join us in wishing our guys luck as they represent our cooperative!



In May, we organized a member education event at Kehila Coffee to explain what it means to be a cooperative member. Thanks to our fantastic team and enthusiastic attendees, it was a memorable experience filled with inspiration and connection. A big thank you to all who were involved!

Hoosier Energy brought two electric vehicles for our members to check out, and everyone enjoyed coffee and dessert. **Congratulations to Linda Coy, the winner of the electric bike!** The hidden account number is 1626300.







Signs OF AN Energy Scam

HIGH-PRESSURE TACTICS

Scammers will pressure you, creating a sense of urgency. Claims that your power will be disconnected without immediate payment are common with utility scams.

SKETCHY PAYMENT METHODS

Scammers may ask for unusual payment methods like gift cards or cryptocurrency. In these cases, it's likely a scam.

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DODGY COMMUNICATION

Whether an email, text message, or letter, utility scams typically include poor grammar, spelling errors, or unusual email addresses. These are common warning signs of a scam.

WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC'S

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT TO SUPPORT THE SHEDDING LIGHT ON HUNGER PROGRAM



NEED ADDITIONAL INFO? Contact WWVREMC at 800-529-5557 or email kjobe@wwvremc.com

HIDDEN ACCOUNT NUMBER

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

NO MAY 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 wwvremc.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.

Franklin County National Bank (FGN) 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

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 you 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.



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

JULY

Janice Halloran, Liberty Alfred Kersey, W. Harrison Matt Olden, Lynn Richard Anderson, Richmond Cheryl Burt, Brookville

unclaimed CAPITAL CREDITS



Do we owe you money? Most refunds are returned to the cooperative because we do not have the former member's current mailing address or contact information. To see if you are on the list of unclaimed capital credits, go to our website at **wwvremc.com/unclaimed-capital-credits** and search by your name. If your name is on the list, complete the form and submit it to the WWVREMC office.

Please remember that as you move off Whitewater Valley REMC's line, you should inform the business office of your current address.



Did you know ceiling fans can help you save energy? Raise the thermostat a few degrees and turn on fans to reduce air conditioning cost. Remember, ceiling fans cool people but don't actually lower the indoor temperature. Turn them off when you leave the room.



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