

JULY
2011

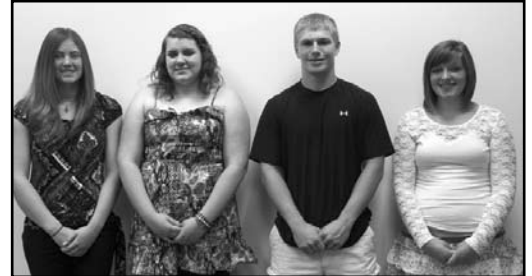


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Local Students Receive Scholarships

Parke County REMC has awarded eight \$500 college scholarships to students in the cooperative's service territory. The winners of the 2011 scholarships are Andrea Willson of Fountain Central High School, Amanda Millican of North Putnam High School, Zachary Niehaus of Northview High School, Christina Wilson of Riverton Parke High School, Angelica Miller of Rockville High School, Mackenzie Hepburn of Southmont High School, Cassandra Warren of South Putnam High School and Delanie Seward of Turkey Run High School.



Pictured above are some of the 2011 scholarship winners, from left to right, Cassandra Warren, Amanda Millican, Zachary Niehaus, and Christina Wilson.

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Monday-Friday
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Old washers agitate your clothes.
Especially your pockets.

Old washers waste water—hot water. Which means energy. Which means money. And lots of it. Give your clothes a break, cut the waste and save with an ENERGY STAR qualified clothes washer. You'll save a ton of water, really cut your energy costs, and get a \$50 rebate. Not bad for doing what's good.



For rebate details, contact your
Parke County REMC Energy Advisor:
765-569-3133 / pcremc.com

Save the Energy Guide from your
purchase to claim your rebate.



Consider Investing in Surge Protection

A small investment can deliver big protection when it comes to protecting your home. Take a quick inventory of your home and you'll see why power surge protection is more important than ever before. Your most expensive electronics are also the most vulnerable to damage from voltage spikes. Computers, stereos, home theater equipment and other electronics can represent a tremendous investment in a household. Even small surges that happen over time can severely damage your sensitive electronics.

Parke County REMC can help you protect your lifestyle from interruptions, and your investments from damage with a Home Guard Defender Plus kit.

For more information call our office at (765) 569-3133 or (800) 537-3913.

Save the Date!

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend the Parke County REMC Annual Meeting Sept. 1, 2011.

Students Travel to Washington D.C.

Two local students had a chance to travel to Washington D.C. with other students from across the state of Indiana, June 9-16. Dallas Uplinger and Jared James joined the Indiana delegation in Indianapolis, then traveled to the nation's capital for several days where they met thousands of students from all over the country. Time was spent visiting the memorials, the museums, Arlington Cemetery, the Gettysburg battlefield and talking to representatives from Congress. Uplinger attends Turkey Run Jr. Sr. High School and James attends North Putnam High School.



Parke County REMC Youth Tour Delegates Dallas Uplinger and Jared James.

Official Notice of Annual Meeting of Members

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the members of the Parke County Rural Electric Membership Corporation (hereinafter called the "Cooperative") will be held at the Parke County Fairgrounds approximately one half mile North of the Town of Rockville on Hwy 41, Parke County, Indiana at 4:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, on Thursday, the 1st day of September 2011; to consider and act on the following:

- 1.) The reports of Officers, Directors and Committees and acts and doings of said Officers, Directors and Committees of said Cooperative.
- 2.) The election of three (3) Directors of the Cooperative in the following districts:

District No. 3 - All of Greene, all of Washington

and all of Howard, Part of Liberty, all of Sugar Creek Townships in Parke County, Indiana; and Part of Mill Creek and Part of Jackson Townships in Fountain County, Indiana.

District No. 7 - Part of Franklin, Part of Monroe and Part of Greencastle Townships in Putnam County, Indiana.

District No. 8 - Part of Florida and part of Raccoon Townships in Parke County, Indiana; part of Dick Johnson Township in Clay County Indiana; part of Otter Creek and part of Nevins Townships in Vigo County, Indiana.

- 3.) For the transaction of any and all other business that may come before said meeting and any and all adjournments thereof.

Nominating Committee Recommends Director Candidates



The nominating committee met on June 2 and selected Janean Deplanty District 3, Mark Evans District 7 and Perry Mager District 8 to represent Parke County REMC on the board of directors. All three nominees are incumbents.

The members of the nominating committee are: (Seated) Kathy Shaffer and Cathy Jalowiec. (Back row) Kenny Pearson, Brian Haase, Gene Clodfelter, Donnie Blanton and Mike Abbott.

Summer Electric Safety Tips

Work Safely Around Electricity

- Look up and around – always be aware of the location of power lines.
- Be especially careful when working near power lines attached to your house. Keep equipment and yourself at least 10 feet from lines.
- Never trim trees near power lines – if you see a tree growing too close to a power line, call us at (765) 569-3133 to report it.
- Never climb a utility pole, and never attach anything to a utility pole.
- If your project includes digging, like building a deck or planting a tree, call 811 or (800) 382-5544 for underground locates at least two business days before you dig. This service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted, and can help you avoid serious injury.
- Electricity and water do not mix! If it's raining or the ground is wet, avoid using electric yard tools.

- Protect outdoor electrical outlets with weatherproof covers and ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Indoor outlets near water sources should also have GFCIs.

Play Safely Around Electricity

- Stay away from power lines. Always assume they are “live and dangerous.”
- Never climb trees near power lines.
- Never touch outdoor wires with any part of your body or other objects.
- Fly kites and model airplanes in large open areas like a park or a field, safely away from trees and overhead power lines. If a kite gets stuck in a tree that is near power lines, do not climb up to get it.
- Never go into an electric substation for any reason - even on a dare. Electric substations contain high-voltage equipment, which can kill you. Never rescue a pet that goes inside. Call Parke County REMC at (800)-537-3913 instead.

About Your Capital Credit Allocation

Parke County REMC operates as a not-for-profit organization, delivering electric service to our members at cost. In the event that revenues exceed the operational expenses of providing electricity, your cooperative allocates these operating margins back to you, the members. The amount shown on your July billing statement represents your share of the operating margins realized by your cooperative in 2010. This information is a record of your ownership in the cooperative and should be preserved. This data is for informational purposes only, and is not negotiable and cannot be applied to your electric bill.

How are my capital credit allocations used until I receive them?

Capital credit allocations are currently being used for system improvement projects to the electric system. These funds help pay for expensive power reliability improvements and maintenance such as rebuilding

power lines and upgrading substations.

By using these allocations in this manner we avoid having to borrow additional money to fund these projects. This helps the cooperative minimize the amount of high-interest money it must borrow, which in turn helps lower member's costs and stabilizes rates.

When do you refund (or retire) capital credits?

The Board of Directors has the authority to approve a certain percentage of the capital credit funds to be retired (or refunded) to the membership. The board did not authorize any capital credit retirements for 2010.

If you are interested in the calculation for your 2010 Capital Credit allocation please contact Parke County REMC.

What is the Wholesale Power Tracker?

The Wholesale Power Tracker (WPT) is a charge that reflects the variable costs that Parke County REMC incurs each month when purchasing wholesale power on your behalf. Items such as raw materials, fuel, and transportation all contribute to the WPT. Our power supplier, Wabash Valley Power, reviews the WPT each quarter to determine if the amount it is charging should be increased or decreased to more accurately and fairly capture fluctuations in these costs.

By structuring the charge in this manner, your REMC avoids having to incorporate these always-changing costs in the base electric rate. Instead, we work to establish a base rate – those items that we can predict and manage that have little variance over time – and then layer the WPT on top. From our perspective, and yours, it creates a more honest accounting of the power each member uses, and smoothes out the costs over time. There will always be changes in the items that make up the WPT, but by accounting for them in this fashion, we're able to lessen the impact.

The current WPT is \$.000642 per kWh and this charge is reflected on your current bill.

Energy Tip of the Month

Consider using solar lights for outdoor lighting. Solar cells convert sunlight into electricity that can be stored in a battery and tapped at night to make light. Check manufacturers' instructions to make sure your solar lights are situated to receive sufficient sunlight to recharge each day.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

New Automated Phone System coming soon!

Parke County REMC is updating their phone system. Beginning in July, when you call our phone it will be an automated system. Please be sure to listen to the options when you call in. We have tried to keep the options simple and easy to understand in order to provide the best service to our members. You will no longer need to call any number other than (765) 569-3133 or (800) 537-3913 to make a payment or report an outage. We hope you find this change to be helpful in doing business with Parke County REMC.

What Is The Deal With Fluorescent Lighting?

Many of my conversations during a home energy audit include a member asking "What is the deal with fluorescent lighting?" So here is the deal with fluorescent lighting.

The first thing you need to understand is that when changing your home over to CFLs, make your purchase decisions based on the lumens (not watts) of the bulb. Lumens are a measurement of the light output of the bulb. Watts are a measurement of the energy used by the bulb. This information is detailed on the bulbs' packaging. In many cases a home owner is disappointed with the lighting of the CFL bulb and this can be avoided by purchasing the right bulb for its location in the home! If a consumer chooses the right bulb for the job they will be satisfied with the light output and even more satisfied with the savings.

Remember when replacing incandescent bulbs with CFLs it is most energy efficient to replace the most used lights first. For example a 60 watt incandescent puts out 800 lumens and can be replaced with a 13 or 15 watt compact fluorescent. A 100 watt



**Jeremy
Montgomery**
Energy Services
Specialist

incandescent puts out 1,600 lumens and can be replaced by a 23-30 watt compact fluorescent.

Compact fluorescent lighting uses 50 to 80 percent less energy than incandescent lighting, obviously saving the home owner 50 to 80 percent on their home lighting expense. The initial cost of a CFL bulb is more than an incandescent, but the CFL bulb is estimated to last 6-10 times longer

than an incandescent. An incandescent bulb uses enough energy to provide the light needed, but also uses energy which produces unwanted heat. This is not the case with a CFL bulb.

Compact fluorescent lights can be used in many applications but you need to get the correct bulb for the application. For instance, you can get CFL bulbs rated for outdoor use, ceiling fans and dimmer switches. Decorative bulbs are even available for more formal areas of the home, and CFL bulbs will work in almost any standard lighting fixture.

For additional information visit: www.energystar.com.

Give Your Home's Energy Use a Break When You're on Vacation

Going on vacation? Even if you plan to be away just a few days, you can save energy in your home when you travel. Here's a tip from Parke County REMC that can give your utility bill a break when you take a break.

Water heater. Turn down the temperature, so it doesn't keep the water warm while you are away. Or, talk to an energy expert at Parke County REMC about turning off the water heater.

Thermostat. During hot weather, turn up the thermostat on your air conditioning system. That way, you'll save energy while ensuring that your home doesn't get too warm. If you're away during the winter, lower the temperature on your furnace. The house can be as cool as 50 degrees without the risk of your pipes freezing.

Refrigerator. Depending on food stored in your fridge, you may be able to turn the thermostat as

high as 38 degrees without risking spoilage. Storing water-filled bottles in your refrigerator can prevent temperature fluctuations, which will save energy. Food in the freezer compartment will stay frozen if the temperature remains at minus 5 degrees.

Lights. Turn off all lights in your home. You may want to install timers on one or two lights for security.

Electronics. Unless you're recording something while away, unplug all of your electronic devices—computer, monitor and printer, TV and cable boxes, DVD player, microwave, and digital clocks. Any electronics with digital displays, instant-on features, or remote controls will consume energy even if they're not in use.

For other tips on how to save energy—and money—visit www.pcremc.com or call the efficiency experts at Parke County REMC, 765-569-3133 or 800-537-3913.