



## Holiday Closing Notice

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 2, in observance of Labor Day.

As always, cooperative dispatchers will be on duty to answer your emergency calls.

Have a happy and safe holiday!

## Fiber Update Info as of 6/24/2024

Miles of backbone – 1,801

Services installed to the home – 9,411

### CONTACT US

420 Straight Creek Road, P.O. Box 1528  
New Tazewell, TN 37824

#### Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Web

pve.coop



Email

info@pve.coop

#### Jonesville Office

All Inquiries: 276-346-6003

#### Sneedville Office

All Inquiries: 423-733-2207

#### Tazewell Office

All Inquiries: 423-626-5204

#### General Manager

Brad Coppock

#### Director of Operations

Travis Tolliver

#### Jonesville Area Supervisor

Jason Stapleton

#### Sneedville Area Supervisor

Joey Southern

#### Tazewell Area Supervisor

Tyler DeBusk

*Powell Valley Electric Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.*

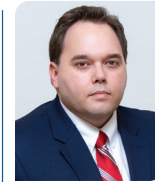
## Electricity Provides You Value

If you're like me, there are aspects of your life that become a daily routine. I get ready for work, get in my car and go for a biscuit on the way to the office. At lunchtime, I drive to the nearest fast-food location and get lunch. Once I finally end the day at home, I play with the kids and stream an episode or two of my favorite show before bed.

As we all look for ways to save money in this age of increasing inflation, I began to think about my daily routine and how much value it provided me compared to the money I spent. My morning biscuit and drink was costing me about \$6, a fast-food combo with a burger, fries and a drink was setting me back \$10, and my Netflix subscription is about \$16 each month. All these daily expenses totaled around \$84 a week, or about \$336 monthly. And what was the real value — short-term satisfaction and a larger waistline? Even as I started packing my own lunch, my morning biscuit and drink was still costing me about \$120 a month. This got me thinking — is this the best value for my money?

The average daily cost of electricity is about \$3.87, and the average monthly electric bill for members of Powell Valley Electric Cooperative is \$116. You could power your entire home every day for the price of a biscuit and drink. I could cook my own meals, binge a series and walk on a treadmill for less than the cost of my breakfast. Now to me, that's real value.

Electricity provides benefits that we often take for granted. It goes well beyond short-term satisfaction by allowing us to charge devices and have cold food and hot water, all in a comfortable indoor climate. Besides the



## Manager's Message

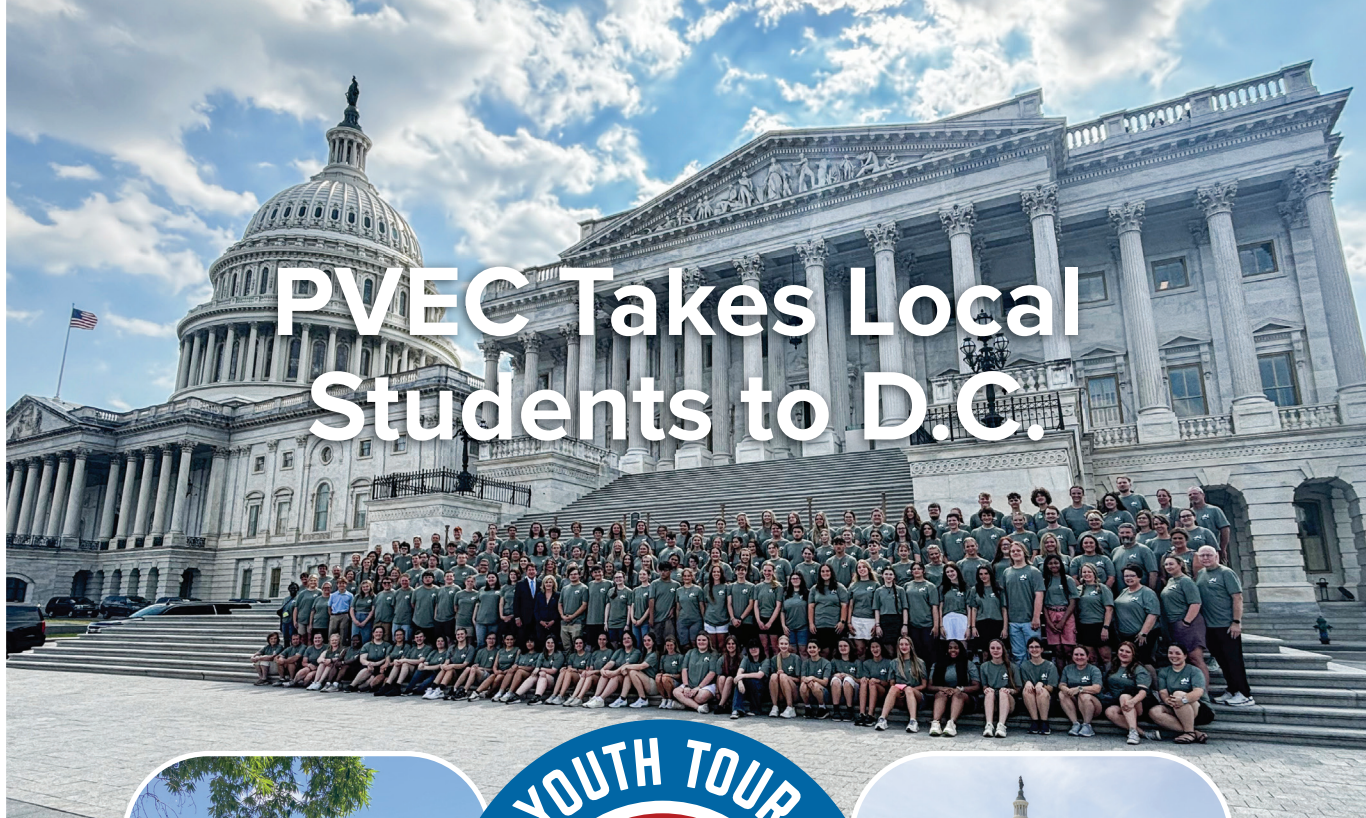
**Brad Coppock**  
General Manager

privilege it affords, electricity has also remained relatively cost-stable, even amidst rising inflation.

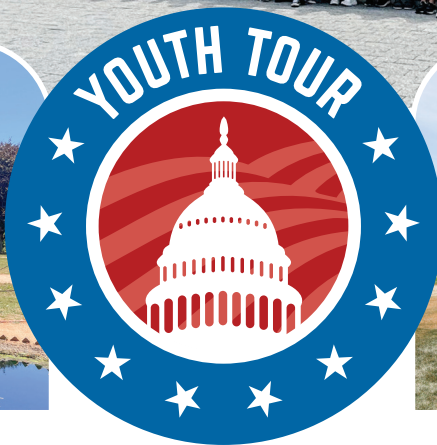
As a member-owned cooperative, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative does everything in our power to ensure your costs stay reasonable and that electricity remains a great value for our members. It's not always easy, as there are several factors beyond inflation that impact the price of electricity — some within our control but most beyond it.

The cost of electricity can fluctuate due to supply and demand, infrastructure investment, maintenance and operational expenses. Weather patterns also contribute, affecting both demand and generation capabilities, with extreme conditions leading to heightened energy use or disruptions. Government policies, such as subsidies for renewable energy or taxes and regulations on emissions, shape electricity costs as well. Your electric co-op considers all these aspects when adjusting rates, and because we're a cooperative, we consider the impact of those costs on our members as well.

As our community continues to rely on electricity for nearly everything in our homes, schools, hospitals and businesses, we need it to be reliable and affordable. Rest assured, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative always places our members at the forefront of our thoughts and works each day to ensure electricity remains the best value for your money.



# PVEC Takes Local Students to D.C.



Students from Powell Valley Electric Cooperative’s service area got the opportunity of a lifetime to spend a week in our nation’s capital as delegates of the 2024 Washington Youth Tour. Kamina Esperon (Clinch School), Alexander McKinney (Claiborne High School), Scott Hebden (Clinch School), and Hailey Daniels (J. Frank White Academy) were among 139 delegates from across the state of Tennessee on the weeklong trip that began on Friday, June 14.

The annual event is sponsored by Powell Valley Electric Cooperative and the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association. The students were selected for the trip by writing a short story titled “Co-ops Connect” that explains how electric co-ops connect communities with energy, education, broadband, economic development and more.

“Chaperoning the best and brightest of Powell Valley Electric Cooperative’s membership on a trip of a lifetime to Washington, D.C., each year is a highlight of my job here at PVEC,” says Kelsey Bryant, member services representative for Powell Valley Electric Cooperative and chaperone on the 2024 Washington Youth Tour. “This year’s delegates represented Powell Valley Electric Cooperative well at our nation’s capital and are coming back home with the knowledge and leadership

skills to become future leaders in their communities.”

The Washington Youth Tour’s nonstop, seven-day itinerary is jam-packed with places to visit and experiences to give the Youth Tour delegates a trip they will never forget. Highlights include a guided memorials tour around the city, visiting museums at the Smithsonian Institute, touring Washington’s Mount Vernon and Jefferson’s Monticello, and taking a trip to Arlington National Cemetery. Delegates also got to see Washington, D.C., staples like the U.S. Capitol and the Washington National Cathedral.

“The Washington Youth Tour is more than a trip,” says Todd Blocker, vice president of member services for the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and tour director. “Transformative. Unforgettable. Life-changing. Whether the trip cultivates a love for history, leadership or active citizenship, we are empowering young minds to shape the future. Seeing the impact the trip has had on many over the years is awe-inspiring.”

The Washington Youth Tour was inspired by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1957 when he encouraged electric cooperatives to send young people to the nation’s capital. Since then, more than 6,000 young Tennesseans have participated in the Washington Youth Tour as delegates.



## Watch the Clock to Lock In Energy Savings

**A**s temperatures rise and summer activities heat up, a reliable flow of electricity is essential to ensure Powell Valley Electric Cooperative members stay cool and connected.

August brings some of the most extreme summer temps, which means people will be spending more time indoors to avoid the heat, and air conditioners will be working overtime. This increased use of electricity will cause spikes in demand, also known as energy peaks.

The electrical grid is essentially a giant network that connects power plants, utility poles and power lines to homes and businesses across the U.S., throughout our state and to our local communities. All parts of the network must work together to ensure the flow of electricity stays balanced 24/7.

When the demand for electricity is higher than usual, power providers must ramp up electricity production — whether from coal, natural gas, wind, solar or other energy sources — and

utilities will pay more for electricity produced during the peak. These higher prices along with the general increase in electricity use are why you typically see higher bills during the hottest months.

When our area experiences extreme summer heat and higher demand for electricity, you can help by conserving energy. It's easy — just check the clock and avoid your energy-intensive activities and chores during peak hours. Powell Valley Electric Cooperative's peak hours during summer months are 3 to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

When we all work together to reduce energy use during peak times, we ease the pressure on the grid and help balance the supply and demand of electricity.

There are many ways to lower your home energy use. Here are a few recommendations to help you save energy (and money) during the summer peak:

- Set your thermostat a few degrees higher. If you have a smart or programmable thermostat, adjust the settings so your cooling system syncs with the off-peak hours.

- Speaking of raising the thermostat, did you know ceiling fans can make you feel 4 degrees cooler? Operate ceiling or oscillating fans in occupied rooms to supplement your air conditioning. Be sure to raise the thermostat while fans are running for maximum energy savings. Remember, fans cool people (not homes), so turn them off when you leave the room.

- Plan energy-intensive activities like laundry and running the dishwasher for off-peak hours. Use automatic timers to run hot tubs, pool pumps, water heaters and other appliances in the same way.

- Unplug electronics when they're not in use or use power strips to manage devices.

- Close drapes and blinds during the afternoon to block unnecessary heat from sunlight.

When we all work together to beat the summer peak, our entire community benefits. Saving energy during peak times reduces your bills, keeps electric rates lower for all and relieves pressure on the grid.

# Your Cooperative Membership



Because PVEC's annual meeting is quickly approaching, we wanted to remind you that in order for an individual to register at the annual meeting, that person must have a membership with the cooperative.

For a married couple, if only one spouse's name is on the membership, only that individual would be permitted to register. If the couple would like to have both of their names listed on that membership so that either spouse could register, we can process a valid request to do so at no charge. Of course, that would mean that only one registration would be allowed between the couple, since it would still be one membership.

If a membership is in the name of a deceased individual, no surviving family member may register at the annual meeting. In the case of a surviving spouse, we will process a valid request to change a membership to the surviving spouse's name free of charge.

Any valid change that is made on a membership to permit an individual to register at our annual meeting would need to be made prior to the meeting date.

If you have questions about your membership, please give us a call!

# Safety Tips

Shane Bunch  
Safety Coordinator



With all the emotions that come with welcoming a newborn into the home for the first time, electrical safety may not be at the top of your mind. However, when a little one begins to crawl and grow curious just months later, you may then realize all the hazards at hand. Yes, there's sickness and the potential to bump their heads on anything and everything. There are also electrical safety hazards that you wouldn't initially think about until sweet, little hands begin playing near outlets.

The National Fire Protection Association says 89% of all injuries caused by electrical outlets are to children under age 6. Each year, 2,400 children suffer severe shock and burns from outlets with an average of seven children daily treated in hospital emergency rooms after playing with those outlets.

Thankfully, there are many ways to protect those precious little fingers and avoid these scary statistics.

A simple way to start is to put outlet covers on your baby registry. They are inexpensive and a practical gift that anyone would be happy to supply. Then, you can already have the electrical outlets covered by the time your little one arrives, and you won't have to worry about it for a while.

As years go by, your child may never bother the outlets. However, if they do, and simple covers are ineffective or pose as choking hazards, consider using Tamper Resistant Receptacles. This option is a tad more expensive but can be worth the extra cost for the added safety. Outlets can only be accessed if an equal amount of pressure is applied on each outlet receptacle with these. Meaning, if your child sticks your car keys into the outlet, a shock will not be felt because the keys only entered one receptacle.

Regardless of the method, childproofed outlets will give you the peace of mind you need knowing your child is safe in your home.

## PVECFiber Options

100Mbps/100Mbps.....\$59.95/month

500Mbps/500Mbps....\$79.95/month

700Mbps/700Mbps....\$89.95/month

1Gig/1Gig.....\$99.95/month

Leased wireless routers are available at an additional monthly fee of \$5.00.

Unlimited phone service is also available for \$24.99 per month.

