



Holiday Closings



In observance of the upcoming holidays, our offices will be closed on these days:

- **Nov. 24**, Thanksgiving Day
- **Dec. 23 and 26** for Christmas
- **Jan. 2**, New Year's holiday

As always, cooperative dispatchers will be on duty to take your emergency calls during the holidays.

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative's board of directors, management and employees would like to wish you and your family a joyous and safe holiday season!

Fiber Update Info as of 9/19/2022

Miles of backbone – 1,801

Services installed to the home – 4,825

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

Tazewell Office

All Inquiries: 423-626-5204

Jonesville Office

All Inquiries: 276-346-6003

Sneedville Office

All Inquiries: 423-733-2207

General Manager

Brad Coppock

Tazewell Area Supervisor

Ronnie Williams

Jonesville Area Supervisor

Jason Stapleton

Sneedville Area Supervisor

Joey Southern

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

Winter Peak



Every month of the calendar year has a peak hour. Unlike PVEC's commercial accounts that are billed on their highest 30-minute demand, TVA bills PVEC for our highest 60-minute demand. Demand charges set during the 60-minute period influence PVEC's wholesale power bill. This is why we want to share with you information about the winter peak months.

The winter peak months, November through March, are here, so we want to offer tips for these months. Winter peaks are most likely to occur during the morning hours between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. when you are getting ready for school and work. There are several things that we can do to lower the peak that will not change our way of life.

HERE'S A FEW WAYS TO BEAT THE PEAK

1. Dial down the heat. Adjust your home's thermostat down a degree or two between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. After these peak hours, set your thermostat back to its normal setting.
2. Delay use of appliances. Postpone certain household chores that involve major appliances like washing machines, clothes dryers and dishwashers. Wait until after 9 a.m. before doing laundry or washing dirty dishes.
3. Flip the switch. Turn off all unnecessary lights during peak hours.

Weatherproof Your House to Stay Warm

Weatherproofing is an inexpensive way to save money on your energy bills during the winter. Even the tiniest gaps around windows, doors, light fixtures, electrical outlets and air ducts can slowly let your home's heated air escape to the outdoors. That can add up to substantial heat loss. Here's how to avoid leaks:

- Caulk throughout the house wherever walls meet floors or door frames, and between the outside of the window frame and the siding. Choose caulk designed for the surface you're caulking, and try a higher quality caulk, which will last longer.
- Apply weatherstripping to all exterior doors and windows. Weatherstripping is a thin piece of material that seals the gap between where the door or window meets the jamb. Self-stick foam pieces are quick and easy to apply.
- Replace worn door sweeps on exterior doors to help prevent heat loss under the door.
- Seal windows with thin plastic sheets using an insulator kit. Shrinking the plastic film with a hair dryer ensures a smooth and tight seal.

Get Your Refrigerator Ready for the Holidays

If Thanksgiving is at your house this year, your family members aren't the only ones who will be stuffed. So will your refrigerator.



IS IT UP TO THE TASK?

In fact, if your fridge is more than a decade old, it might not be. Today's models — those bearing the Energy Star label, at least — use at last 15% less energy than current federal standards require, and 40% less than models in the early 2000s, according to the Department of Energy.

Yet more than 60 million households have refrigerators that are more than 10 years old, DOE says. By replacing it with a new, energy-efficient model, you could save up to \$300 in electricity charges over its lifetime.

When shopping for a new refrigerator or freezer, read the EnergyGuide label. It tells you how many kilowatt-hours of electricity the unit will consume over a year of operation. The smaller the number, the better. Look for refrigerators that have a freezer on the bottom or the top, as side-by-side designs consume more energy. Chest freezers are typically better insulated than upright models.

Whether you're buying a new fridge this year or not, follow these tips for more efficient use around the holidays:

- Brush or vacuum your refrigerator's coils regularly to improve efficiency by as much as 30%.
- Keeping your refrigerator full shouldn't be hard this time of year and doing so will help your unit retain cold better. If you have trouble keeping it stocked, fill the extra space with bottles or containers of water.
- If your milk is frosty in the morning, reduce the refrigerator's temperature. Refrigerators should be set between 36 degrees and 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Freezers should stay between 0 and 5 degrees.
- Put a dollar bill in the door's seal to see if it is airtight. If the dollar slips out easily, so will cold air.

2022 Annual Meeting



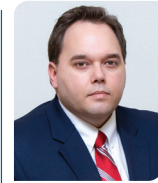
This year's annual cooperative membership meeting was held at Thomas Walker High School in Ewing, Va. Due to ongoing concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the social activities, such as health checks, lunch, live music and bucket truck rides, were limited to ensure the safety of its members.

Board Vice President David Kindle called the meeting to order, and cooperative employee Danny Sexton gave the invocation. John Hoyle, director of accounting and finance, presented the annual financial report, highlighting PVEC's growth and stating that the cooperative is financially sound.

I gave an additional report regarding the operations of the cooperative during the past year. Highlights of that report are as follows:

"As the last two years have demonstrated, we never know what challenges tomorrow might bring. So, for the third year in a row, we've modified our meeting to protect the health and well-being of our members. Just like last year, our program has been scaled down, but will cover all the requirements. So, for now, our hope is that next year, we will meet at Claiborne High School and, once again, be able to have our regular activities, such as free health services, bucket truck rides, lunch and door prizes. In the meantime, we must continue to take preventative measures while we conduct the business of the cooperative.

"The past year has been VERY challenging for our cooperative as it has with other electric utilities; nevertheless, it has been filled with growth and progress. This growth has come as we were faced with



Manager's Message

Brad Coppock
General Manager

high inflation, supply-chain issues and labor shortages. Over the past year, your cooperative has seen growth in membership as families leave their home states and relocate to Southwest Virginia and East Tennessee. Affordability is a key motive that beckons many to relocate to our service area, and this has been accelerated by the pandemic as families want more space to raise their children and live out their lives in less hectic communities. Although natural disasters have led to industry-wide material shortages, which has been driving up material costs and creating long delivery times, your cooperative has continued to meet the increasing demand for new electric services in a timely manner.

"Broadband availability has also played a vital part of our cooperative's growth. Now more than ever, reliable high-speed broadband is crucial for our members living or moving into unserved or underserved areas. As you know, your cooperative partnered with Scott County Telephone Cooperative to form PVECFiber to build a high-quality, reliable broadband network. This is a costly endeavor, so we are working with our partners at Scott County to obtain grants to offset the cost of deploying fiber. Fortunately, Virginia and Tennessee are both making enormous investments to close the digital divide. Since last year's annual meeting our partnership has been awarded approximately \$17 million in grants, with the most recent grant being awarded just two weeks ago. In two years,

PVECFiber has built over 1,800 miles of fiber backbone and connected nearly 4,800 families and businesses with high-speed broadband. It will take a few more years to complete, but rest assured, we are pursuing all avenues to bring affordable, high-speed broadband to all homes and businesses in our service area as quickly as possible.

“Building new electric lines and maintaining existing ones for reliability are at the core of our business. Since our last annual meeting, your cooperative has installed or replaced nearly 700 transformers for 881 new services. Construction crews have installed or replaced nearly 1,100 poles and built or reconducted over 63 miles of overhead and underground lines. We are also in the second year of a five-year plan to upgrade our AMI system that allows the cooperative to read over 33,000 meters every day. We are in the process of replacing aging breakers in our substations and distribution lines, and we have plans to upgrade relaying in our substations, as well. In efforts to improve reliability, we are committing more resources to our vegetation management program. This has included adding traditional tree-cutting crews and something new to us called a Jarraff cutter. It is a machine that has a telescopic boom with a circular saw blade attached to it. It can safely trim tree branches up to around 80 feet high. Be on the lookout for it in your area. It’s really something neat to see in action. The equipment upgrades and renewed focus on vegetation management demonstrate your cooperative’s commitment to provide the safe and reliable service you’ve come to expect.

“As John [Hoyle] reported, your cooperative remains financially strong and well-equipped to handle the challenges that lie ahead. We also have a financial consultant look over our finances, and I’m happy to report the financial health of the cooperative will remain strong for the foreseeable future. To take this a step further, your cooperative is financially strong while our members enjoy some of the lowest electric rates in the Tennessee Valley. Due to our strong financial position, I’m pleased to report that along with our partners at TVA, we were able to give back \$40,000 to our communities to assist families having



difficulty paying their electric bills.

“Next we’ll talk about our long-term partnership with TVA.

“For the last two years TVA has approved a special Pandemic Relief Credit and a Pandemic Recovery Credit to help communities and businesses recover more quickly from the pandemic; and, both years, PVEC’s board of directors passed the entire credit through to our members. The latest credit will end this month. However, TVA’s board of directors approved a 2.5% credit through fiscal year 2023 to all electric utilities in the Valley. Most utilities are keeping all or a portion of the credit to offset rising material and labor cost. I’m happy to report, at the last Powell Valley board meeting, your board of directors has, once again, made the decision to pass the entire 2.5% credit (~ \$1.5 M) directly to its members. So, this is certainly great news for all of the members of our cooperative.

“I would like to thank Thomas Walker High School for allowing us to conduct the annual meeting here, and I’d like to thank Mitchell and Mike Cosby for providing the sound system for today’s meeting. Also, we have two of the four winners of the Washington Youth Tour with us today. Please stand and be recognized: Hannah Daniels from J. Frank White Academy and Anna Hopkins from Hancock County High School. Congratulations on your successful short stories. Last, but certainly not least, we have with us Todd Blocker, vice president of member relations with the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, of which your cooperative is a member. The TECA

office is located in Nashville, Tenn. Thank you, Todd, for making the drive up and being with us today.

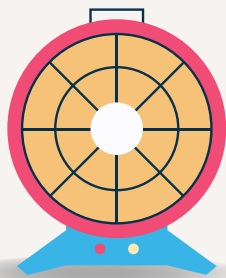
“At this time, on behalf of the employees and myself, I’d like to thank the board for their leadership, support and guidance ... and I’d like to thank the employees for their outstanding dedication in providing service to our members. They are the REAL power behind our electric cooperative.

“And THANK YOU for being with us for the 2022 Annual Meeting and allowing us the privilege to serve as your energy provider. Together ... our future looks very bright!”

During the business session, presided over by Board Vice President David Kindle, incumbent directors Allen Parkey, representing District 4; Lena Short, representing District 5; and Gary Russell, representing District 9, were re-elected without opposition. After the votes were tallied in the election for District 1, incumbent director Tracey Sharp was declared reelected to the board of directors.

During the reorganizational meeting of the board, officers reelected were Roger Ball, president; David Kindle, vice president; and Judith Robertson, secretary-treasurer.

We look forward to, one day, being able to join together with the co-op community in fellowship and enjoy great entertainment and food. You, the members of Powell Valley Electric, are the heart of this cooperative. Thank you for your support as we work to continue to provide safe, reliable and affordable power.



Give Space Heaters Their Space

Space heaters can work wonders on the coldest winter days to warm rooms your central heating system can't quite reach. But while manufacturers have worked to build more safety features into this alternative heating source, users still should take precautions to ensure these cozy heaters don't become fire hazards.

Space heaters are designed as a supplemental source of heat, not as the main source. So you shouldn't use them constantly, especially in rooms that you don't use much. Check your space heaters for an Underwriters Laboratories seal, and follow these guidelines for safely using it:

- Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from drapes and furniture that could catch fire.
- Don't use extension cords with space heaters unless absolutely necessary.
- Inspect the heater's cord periodically for frayed wire or damaged insulation. Don't use a space heater with a damaged cord.
- Check periodically for a secure plug/outlet fit. If the plug gets hot, the outlet may need to be replaced by a qualified electrician. This could be the sign of a home wiring issue.
- Place your heater on a flat, level surface. Don't place heaters on furniture, as they may fall and break or even start a fire.
- Unless the heater is designed for use outdoors or in bathrooms, don't use it in wet areas.



Jason Stapleton
Jonesville Area Supervisor



It's been said that the kitchen is the heart of a home, and that's never more true than during the holidays. We instinctively gather there: to cook, eat and just enjoy each other's company. With the approach of Thanksgiving, our kitchens will get quite a workout — and that means it's time to think about safety.

When we look forward to the aroma of roasting turkey, baking pumpkin pies and all the other delicious smells coming from the kitchen this time of year, the one thing we don't want to smell is smoke from an electrical fire! We remind our members to stay safe as they prepare holiday meals for their family and friends.

With that in mind, here are some helpful tips to improve kitchen safety — during Thanksgiving and all year round:

- With so much hustle and bustle, it's easy to get distracted by the arrival of guests, the latest score in the big game, etc. But to stay safe, keep an eye on your cooking and stay in the kitchen. About a third of all kitchen fires are started by unattended cooking.
 - Keep dish towels, pot holders and oven mitts away from stovetop burners.
 - Pay attention to what you're wearing. Big loose sleeves are a no-no — as are scarves.
 - Watch children closely, and never leave hot pots or pans within their reach on the edge of a countertop or table.
- Don't overload outlets by plugging in multiple appliances like slow cookers and electric skillets, and unplug the devices when they're not in use.
 - By the time it all finally comes together, the crew is famished and you're ready to get off your feet and enjoy the results of your culinary efforts! Before you leave the kitchen, check one last time to make sure that the oven, stove and any electrical appliances are all turned off.

If a kitchen fire should occur, however, be ready to respond by taking these steps:

- Quickly turn off the heat source.
- Never throw water on an electrical fire. A stovetop fire in a shallow pan can usually be extinguished by covering the flames with a metal lid or baking sheet.
 - If it's small and fairly manageable, pour baking soda or salt on the fire to smother it. (Never use flour; it can explode and make the fire worse.)
 - If something inside the oven catches fire, do not open the oven door; just turn the oven off and back away — the fire will eventually go out due to lack of oxygen. Opening the oven door can fan the flames and burn your face or set your hair on fire.
 - For a stovetop grease fire that grows into a larger blaze, spray with a Class B dry chemical fire extinguisher. Stand 8 feet away from the fire and aim above the flames.
 - If the fire has started to spread beyond your ability to put it out swiftly, do not hesitate to call 911.