



Closing Notice

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Monday, July 4, in observance of the Independence Day holiday. Have a safe and fun-filled holiday!

Fiber Update Info as of 4/25/2022

Miles of backbone – 1,791
Services installed to the home – 3,944

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 **f** **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.*

Know the Signs of a Scam

It's no secret that consumers with a water, gas or electricity connection have long been targets for utility scams, but fraudsters have changed their tactics since the COVID-19 pandemic. As consumers became more reliant on technology for work, school and commerce, scammers noted these shifts and adapted their tactics to this changed environment.

Imposter scams are the No. 1 type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission. While scam artists may come to your door posing as a utility worker who works for the "power company," in today's more connected world, attempts are more likely to come through an electronic device, via email,



Manager's Message

Brad Coppock
General Manager

If you proceed, you will be prompted to provide banking and/or other personal information. Instead of money going into your bank account, the scammers can drain your account and use personal information such as a social security number for identity theft. If this "refund" scam happens over the phone, just hang up and block the phone number to prevent future robocalls. If this scam

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phone or text. A scammer may claim you are overdue on your electric bill and threaten to disconnect your service if you don't pay immediately. Whether this is done in person or by phone, text or email, the scammers want to scare you into immediate payment so you don't have time to think clearly.

If this happens over the phone, simply hang up. If you're concerned about your bill, call your local Powell Valley Electric Cooperative office. Our contact information can be found on your monthly bill and on our website, pve.coop. If the scam is by email or text, delete it before taking any action. For immediate assistance, use the PVEC app to check the status of your account.

Some scammers may falsely claim you have been overcharged on your bill and say they want to give you a refund. It sounds easy. All you have to do is click or press a button to initiate the process.

attempt occurs via email (known as a "phishing" attempt) or by text ("smishing"), do not click any links. Instead, delete it and, if possible, block the sender.

If you do overpay on your energy bill, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative will automatically apply the credit to your next billing cycle. When in doubt, contact us. Be wary of calls or texts from unknown numbers. Be suspicious of an unknown person claiming to be a utility worker who requests banking or other personal information. Never let anyone into your home that you don't know unless you have a scheduled appointment or reported a problem. We want to help protect our community against utility scams, and you can help create the first line of defense. Please report any potential scams to us so we can spread the word to prevent others in the community from falling victim.

Stay Fresh: Five Tips for Better Indoor Air Quality

by Abby Berry

We spend a lot of time indoors. In fact, the Environmental Protection Agency estimates the average person spends 90% of their life indoors.

Additionally, our homes are becoming more energy-efficient — they're better insulated and sealed with less ventilation — which is great for our energy bills but not so much for our indoor air quality.

The thought of breathing in pollutants can be scary, but the truth is, indoor air pollution is common and simply unavoidable. The good news is there are ways you can easily improve the air quality of your home.

Here are five tips to help you breathe a little easier.

CHANGE YOUR AIR FILTER OFTEN.

Clogged, dirty filters reduce the amount of airflow and the HVAC system's efficiency. When a filter becomes too clogged, the excess dirt and dust are sent through your air ducts, adding unnecessary allergens and other unwanted particles into your living space. During the cooling season (summer months), the Department of Energy recommends replacing your air filter every month or two. This is one of the easiest ways to promote better indoor air quality and energy efficiency.

REGULARLY VACUUM CARPET AND RUGS — ESPECIALLY IF YOU HAVE FURRY FRIENDS.

The cleaner the home, the healthier the home. Vacuuming carpet and area rugs once a week can greatly reduce the accumulation of pet dander and dust inside your home. Frequently clean other areas that collect dust, like drapes, bedding and cluttered areas.

USE VENTS TO REMOVE COOKING FUMES.

Those exhaust fans aren't just for when you burn the bacon. Fans help remove fumes emitted while cooking and eliminate unwanted moisture and odors. They may be a bit noisy, but these handy tools can help you improve indoor air quality while you're preparing that culinary masterpiece (or even a grilled cheese sandwich!).

GET A HANDLE ON HUMIDITY.

Summer months typically bring more humidity than we'd like, especially if you live in a high-humidity climate zone. Moisture in the air can carry bacteria and other unwanted particles that you eventually breathe in. Dehumidifiers work to remove that moisture from the air, reducing the amount of bacteria, mold and other allergens in your home.

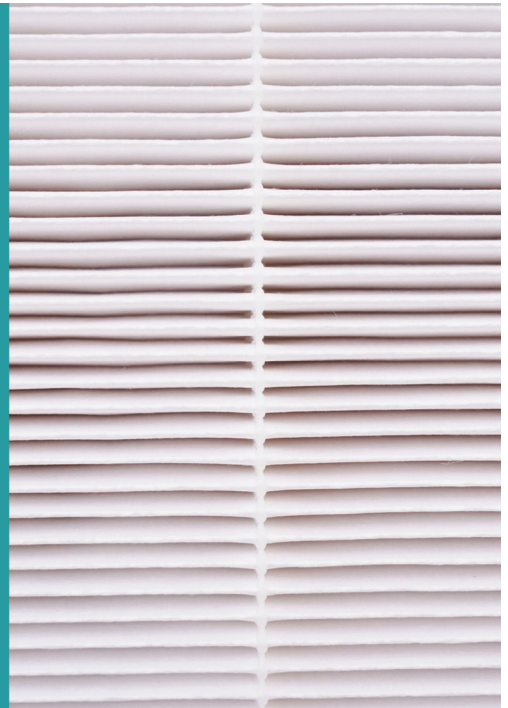
INCORPORATE AIR-PURIFYING PLANTS INTO YOUR LIVING SPACE.

There are several varieties of indoor plants that can help detoxify your home from dust and germs found in a variety of home products, furniture and other materials. A few low-maintenance, air-purifying plants to consider are snake plants,

Breathe Easier.

Regularly changing your cooling system's air filter provides multiple benefits.

- Improved indoor air quality
- Cleaner home
- Fewer indoor allergens
- Improved system efficiency



aloe vera plants and pothos plants (also known as Devil's Ivy). These vibrant, lush plants are eye-catching and beneficial for any home. Remember to review care conditions and think about placement for any new plants you add to your home.

Taking simple steps to purify indoor air can improve health and overall quality of life. With a little effort, you can improve the indoor air quality of your home and breathe a bit easier.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing electric cooperatives in Virginia, Maryland and Delaware, and across the country.

Nominees by Nominating Committee



POWELL VALLEY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

On Wednesday, June 8, the Powell Valley Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee met for the purpose of nominating four candidates for the cooperative's board of directors for three-year terms (with the exception of District 1, a one-year term) to begin in September. The individuals nominated are as follows:

District 1 – Tracey Sharp

District 4 – Allen Parkey

District 5 – Lena Short

District 9 – Gary Russell

The cooperative's board of directors consists of nine members who are representatives of their respective districts across the cooperative's service area.



Safety Tips

Ronnie Williams
Tazewell Area Supervisor



Your backyard pool is probably a favorite gathering place for your family and neighbors — especially the children.

And you have, of course, taught the kids that water and electricity don't mix.

Go the extra mile and inspect your yard and patio for electrical hazards before the pool party begins. For example:

- Remove electrical cords that run over or alongside the pool. No matter how fancy those decorative lights look when strung over the pool, they're not worth the damage they could do if a cord falls into the water. Instead, string those lights elsewhere — at least three feet away from the pool, hot tub or other water source.
- The same goes for your barbecue grill, whether it's electric or propane. Keep it a safe distance away from the pool.
- Avoid putting lights or electrical cords in the path of swimmers getting out of the pool and heading for chairs, the towel closet or the door to the house. They're too wet to come into contact with electricity.
- Have a licensed electrician replace all of your outdoor electrical outlets with GFCI outlets to protect both people and appliances.

Honor Our Flag

In the Armed Forces of the United States, at the Ceremony of Retreat, the flag is lowered, folded in a triangle fold, and kept under watch throughout the night as a tribute to our nation's honored dead. The next morning it is brought out, and at the Ceremony of Reveille, run aloft as a symbol of our belief in the resurrection of the body.

The portion of the flag denoting honor is the canton field of blue containing the stars, representing states our veterans served in uniform. The canton field of blue dresses from left to right and is inverted only when draped as a pall on a casket of a veteran who has served our country honorably in uniform.

1. The first fold of our flag is a symbol of our belief in God.
2. The second fold is a symbol of our devotion to the United States of America.
3. The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans who have departed our ranks.
4. The fourth fold represents our reliance on God for guidance and strength.
5. The fifth fold is a tribute to freedom and all that it means to us.
6. The sixth fold represents our heart, for it is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.
7. The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for

it is the Armed Forces who protect our country and our flag against all her enemies.

8. The eighth fold is a tribute to honor our mothers' faith, love, loyalty, and devotion that have shaped the character of the men and women who have made this country great.
9. The ninth fold is a tribute to fathers, who give their sons and daughters for the defense of our country.
10. The tenth fold is a tribute to American families everywhere. Our strength is built upon their strength.
11. The eleventh fold is a symbol of our belief in justice and equality for all.
12. The twelfth fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies our faith in God.
13. The thirteenth fold is a symbol of our thirteen original colonies.

When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto "In God We Trust." After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the American soldiers who first served under Gen. George Washington to establish and preserve the rights, privileges and freedoms we enjoy today.

Area High School Seniors Earn Electric Co-op College Scholarships

Three high school seniors from the service territory of Powell Valley Electric Cooperative have each received \$1,000 college scholarships



awarded by the Education Scholarship Foundation of the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives.

The 2022 scholarship recipients are Kinley Cox, Claiborne High School; Addison Fleenor, Hancock County High School; and Storm Ramsey, Hancock County High School.

The students were eligible for consideration because their parents or guardians are members of Powell Valley Electric Cooperative.

"These scholarships reflect the strong commitment of electric cooperatives to advancing educational opportunities among our youth," says Russell G. "Rusty" Brown, chair of the Education Scholarship Foundation Board and chair of the board of directors of the VMD Association. "We commend these students on their academic success, knowing they represent a future generation of leaders in their communities."

The Foundation awarded Worth Hudson Scholarships of \$1,000 each to 50 students. They are named in honor of Hudson, the first chairman of the VMDAEC Education Scholarship Foundation. All three Powell Valley Electric Cooperative students received the Worth Hudson Scholarship.

"We're extremely proud to be able to help these deserving young people from electric cooperative service areas continue their education, whether at a college or university, or in learning a trade," says Brian Mosier, president and CEO of the VMD Association.

Since 2001, the Foundation has provided approximately 840 scholarships totaling more than \$860,000 to aspiring college students as well as to the next generation of electric lineworkers.

The Foundation is supported through tax-deductible donations and bequests from individuals, proceeds from fundraising events and CoBank's Sharing Success Program. One hundred percent of donations go to students for scholarships. For information on donating to the Foundation, visit vmdaec.com/scholarship.

Beat the Peak

It's summertime, and in keeping with our efforts to provide you with reliable, affordable power, we want to share information about peak demand and how to beat the peak during the hot summer months.

KWhs + DEMAND + O & M = YOUR CHARGE PER KWH ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

If we can lower any of these — the number of kilowatt-hours (kWh) you use, the demand charge we pay, or operations and maintenance (O & M) costs — we can lower electricity bills for all of us, or with the rising costs of everything today, help keep our rates from increasing. The easiest of the three to control is our demand.

We pay TVA monthly for the electricity we use to meet the needs of all our members, plus we pay TVA a charge to meet peak demand for the month, because TVA must either generate enough capacity to meet peak or go to the wholesale market and buy electricity when it is most expensive. Our demand charge is based on the single hour each month that our demand for power is at its highest. By cutting back on the power we buy from TVA during these peak periods, we can reduce our power costs, and that helps hold down your cost. It's a simple matter of using energy wisely.

HERE'S HOW TO DO IT

1. Turn your thermostat up a degree or two between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.
2. Use major appliances such as washing machines, clothes dryers, and dishwashers before 3 p.m. or after 6 p.m.
3. Delay using hot water as much as possible until after 6 p.m. Wait awhile before washing those dishes.
4. If you prepare meals before 6 p.m., think about going outside and using the grill, or use the microwave, toaster, air fryer or convection oven as much as possible rather than the stove or oven. Not only will these use less electricity, they will generate less heat in your kitchen.
5. Turn off all unnecessary lights during peak hours.
6. Close window shades and drapes to help keep heat out.

Here at Powell Valley Electric, we are always looking for better and more economical ways to serve our members. Lowering demand not only saves money on our electric bills, but also helps us continue to have the lowest rates in the Valley. We encourage you to conserve or limit energy use during peak energy times, then go back to your customary activities and your normal way of living! Let's all work together — it will make a difference. We can beat the peak!



PVEC Visits Local School

First class lineman Tyler DeBusk recently visited Midway Elementary School to participate in their school-wide Safety Day. He discussed electrical safety and demonstrated how a bucket truck operates. We are proud to provide our future members this important information on electrical safety!