



Closing Notice

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative offices will be closed April 15 in observance of Good Friday. Our best wishes to all of you for a blessed Easter! As always, PVEC dispatchers will be on duty throughout the holiday weekend to take your emergency calls.

Fiber Update Info

as of 2/21/2022

Miles of backbone – 1,766

Services installed to the home – 2,976

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.*

We're 'Going There' Because the Stakes are Just Too High

Let's face it: In this day and age, talking about politics is the last thing many of us are inclined to do. It's uncomfortable at best, and on occasion, it can get downright hostile — in a hurry. Although we may not like it, politics matter to all of us. We're all affected by the decisions our legislators make. And that includes the members of Powell Valley Electric Cooperative. That's why PVEC representatives work closely with both the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives.

As the co-op's representative on the VMDAEC Board of Directors, our board Vice President, David Kindle, keeps abreast of issues concerning the cooperative and affecting our Virginia members. Legislative liaisons for the cooperatives, the Governmental Affairs Committee works continuously on legislative matters affecting cooperatives and their members.

I recently attended a legislative conference in Nashville — something representatives from your cooperative do each year. We joined our counterparts from electric cooperatives all across the state in participating in this event.

As part of a detailed briefing we receive from TECA staffers who make it their business to understand the issues and how they impact the members of our co-op, we learn about specific pieces of legislation that are being considered in Nashville. We ask questions to folks who know these issues inside and out. We hear which bills will benefit rural Tennesseans and which will pose problems for them. We learn how to be effective advocates for the interests of those we serve.

Then we take this information to those state senators and representatives whose districts include our co-op's service area. We meet face-to-face with each



Manager's Message

Brad Coppock
General Manager

legislator to help them understand the issues that matter to our members. We make the case as to why their support or their opposition is important. We serve as a voice for co-op members who can't come to the State Capitol to speak for themselves.

And make no mistake: Our involvement makes a difference. We may not be able to sway opinions in every instance, but there have been any number of examples where the united voices promoting the interests of co-op members have turned the tide.

Why are we there? We're there for you. Many professional lobbyists promoting various special interests are focused on influencing these legislators for their own purposes. We come to Nashville every year to speak up for those who live, work and raise their families in rural Tennessee. We know you, and we know what matters to you — because it matters to us, too.

Politics will never be my idea of a good time, but the stakes are simply too high to sit on the sidelines. Sometimes we'll succeed in our attempts to persuade, and other times we'll fail. We won't stop trying. Win or lose, there is value in the attempt. I am proud to be in a position to use all my effort to make things better for the members of Powell Valley Electric Cooperative. When a certain bill comes up for debate, our state senators and representatives may stop and think, "Oh, yeah. I remember when that electric co-op group came to talk to me about that. This could impact a large number of my constituents." And believe me, that makes it all worthwhile.

Summer Peak

Every month of the calendar year has a peak hour. Demand charges set during the 60-minute period influence the wholesale power bill. This is why we want to share with you information about the summer peak months.

The summer peak months, April through October, are here. Below are some tips for these months to help lower the peak and not change our way of life. Summer peaks are most likely to occur on the hottest days in the late afternoon between 3-6 p.m. when families turn up the A/C to keep cool.

SOME WAYS TO BEAT THE PEAK

1. Turn your thermostat up a degree or two between 3-6 p.m. After these peak hours, set your thermostat back to its normal setting.
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. Turn off all unnecessary lights during peak hours.
5. Close window shades and drapes to help keep heat out during the peak hours of 3-6 p.m.

Small Changes Can Have Big Impact

Friday, April 22, is Earth Day 2022. Consider making an Earth Day resolution to change at least one energy-related bad habit at home. Here are some ideas:

1. If you haven't already, switch your lamps and overhead light fixtures to LED versions. You can even use LED lightbulbs in older fixtures.
2. Turn off the lights when you leave a room and teach your children to do the same. This is time-tested advice.
3. Unplug appliances like the TV and your computer when you're not using them. Appliances that are turned off but still plugged in draw small amounts of electricity.
4. Take shorter showers. You'll save both water and energy.
5. Have your large appliances inspected every year. A maintenance check can help a furnace, air-conditioning system or water heater last longer and run more efficiently.

Beware of Warm-weather Scammers

Your electric cooperative will never send anyone to your home to ask you if you need work done. And when someone does come for a legitimate reason, you'll see a uniform and a truck with the cooperative's logo on it.

Springtime is scam season. Don't be surprised if you get telephone calls, uninvited visitors looking for work and loads of door hangers offering landscaping, roofing, painting and home-repair services.

Your best bet: Say no to all of them. If you need work done around your house, visit the website of the state agency responsible for licensing contractors or join a contractor referral network that recommends only contractors who are licensed, insured, bonded and experienced.

A few other tips:

- Be wary of contractors with out-of-state license plates or detachable, magnetic company signs on their trucks. These could be "travelers," who follow the warm weather from state to state and hire themselves out as home-improvement contractors. They're almost always unlicensed in your state, and if you discover a problem with their work later, they'll be long gone.



- Do not pay in cash, and do not pay up front. Instead, work out a payment schedule that allows you to pay in increments as the work is completed.

- Get bids from three reputable companies before you start. If you get one offer that's much lower than the other two, something is probably amiss.

- Don't fall for these two lines: "I just finished a job at your neighbor's house and I'll give you a good price if you hire me today because I'm already in the neighborhood" or "I have leftover materials from a job I just did and I'll sell/install them here for a deep discount because I don't need them."

Hiring contractors can be expensive. Don't waste your money on one who's not licensed and legitimate.



Digging into an outdoor project?



Before you dig, dial 811 or visit va811.com to protect underground utilities. Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Call or click before you dig and help keep our community safe.

The Power Behind Your Power

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 11

You've likely noticed Powell Valley Electric Cooperative's crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough — but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11, we thought we'd share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers with you.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying six gallons of water. Speaking of utility poles, lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall.

Lineworkers must be committed to their careers — because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

Lineworkers often work nontraditional hours outdoors in difficult conditions. While the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning. Did you know that becoming a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000 hours of training (or about four years)? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work.

Despite the many challenges, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative's lineworkers are committed to powering our local communities. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers must be ready to unexpectedly leave their families and the comfort of their homes, and they don't return until the job is done. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. Powell Valley Electric Cooperative's lineworkers are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain 3,645 miles of power lines across eight counties. In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers



Lineworkers must be committed to their career — because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle.

perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today's lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets, drones and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

Lineworkers are absolutely essential to the life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity needed for everyday life.

So, the next time you see lineworkers, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them on April 11, and follow **#ThankALineworker** on social media to see how others are recognizing lineworkers.



Plant a Tree for Arbor Day

PLANT TREES IN MEMORY

A vibrant, beautiful tree benefits everyone in this life and future generations and is perhaps the most fitting memorial of all. Planting a tree is an act of direct benefit to all.

It can inspire energy, faith, devotion and courage, and carry forward the name of those memorialized in a living, vital way that grows grander with the years.

PLANT TREES IN CELEBRATION

Plant trees in celebration of birthdays, anniversaries, new births or any special occasion. Need it today? Print a personalized certificate at home as a great last-minute gift idea.

By planting trees in celebration, you can honor your loved ones while caring about the environment and replanting our nation's forests.

PLANT TREES FOR PETS

They're more than our pets. They're our friends. They carve out a special place in our hearts and in our lives. And you can show them how much you care with trees planted in their honor.

Whether you're celebrating a new adoption or remembering a beloved companion, your trees will serve as living tribute that will benefit our planet for years to come.

Source: arborday.org.



Safety Tips

Ronnie Williams
Tazewell Area Supervisor

Even if you clean your dryer's lint trap after every load of laundry, lint that gets stuck in other areas of the appliance can cause problems. Here are some tips from dryer manufacturers that can help keep laundry day productive and safe:

- A clogged dryer vent and exhaust duct could overheat and send dirty, moist air back into your home — or even catch on fire. Tip: Give that unit a good cleaning once a year. You might have to disconnect the exhaust duct from the dryer and from the vent to remove a blockage.



- If your clothes are still damp at the end of a drying cycle, that could mean your lint screen or exhaust duct is blocked.

- Take a broom to the area behind your dryer. Lint always finds its way back there and it can build up. If you can't move the dryer to get behind it, call a service tech for help.



We Trees, Too

We know everyone in our community enjoys the beauty and shade trees provide.

But trees and power lines can be a dangerous mix without regular trimming during the growing season. If you see us trimming trees, remember the many benefits it brings:

- Keeps power lines clear of tree limbs;
- Helps us restore power outages more quickly;
- Keeps crews and members of our community safe; and
- Reduces unexpected costs for repairs.

Trimming improves service reliability for you, the members we serve.

