

## Avoid Utility Scams

Scammers will threaten you with everything from shutting off power to your home to legal action. Don't fall victim to these types of scams.

- Our employees will never show up at your door to demand payment.
- Never give personal information to an unknown caller or visitor. Our representatives have access to the details they need to service your account.
- Demands for immediate payment by wire transfer, cryptocurrency, gift cards or cash reload cards should immediately raise red flags.
- If you think you've been contacted by a scammer falsely representing the co-op, please let us know as soon as possible.

## Holiday Closing Notice

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Monday, July 5, in observance of the Independence Day holiday. Have a safe and fun-filled holiday!

### CONTACT US

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#### 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

#### Interim 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.*

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR GENERAL MANAGER

Brad Coppock | Interim General Manager



## 'Move Over' to Save a Life

No one could have predicted that the 33-year-old journeyman lineman would lose his life that day. Yet the accident that resulted in his death could easily have been avoided. It happened in Washington state. The victim was working as part of a six-person crew installing a utility pole at the intersection of two rural county roads — a location similar to many we have right here in Powell Valley Electric Co-op's service area. An impaired driver drove past the work zone signage (ignoring a flagger), crossed into the opposing traffic lane and plowed right into the work site. After contacting the hood and windshield, the victim was thrown over the top of the vehicle and struck his head on the asphalt pavement. He was airlifted to a trauma center and died of his injuries 10 days later. This young man never made it back home to his family that day — all because someone failed to respect the clearly marked space in which he was working.

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative line crews place themselves in vulnerable positions every day, doing what they must in order to keep the lights on for you and me. They can obey all the rules, wear their personal protective equipment, take precautions to ensure proper visibility, follow all the steps to set up a safe and clearly marked work zone ... and still be at risk from irresponsible motorists. Virginia's Move Over law is designed to protect folks who might find themselves working along our state's roadways as part of their job performance. This includes operators of emergency vehicles, tow trucks, highway maintenance vehicles, solid waste trucks and (near and dear to my

heart, not surprisingly) utility vehicles. The law requires that motorists move over to an adjacent lane of traffic and/or slow down. With a maximum fine of \$2,500 for violating this law and the likelihood of up to 12 months in jail, you'd think that people would adhere to a rule intended to save lives.

But the sad fact is the Move Over Law is regularly flouted by irresponsible drivers — and no less than the safety and wellbeing of our line crews are at stake when this occurs.

The circumstances vary, although no reason for ignoring the law is valid. Perhaps you're in a hurry to get somewhere, or maybe you're simply not paying attention. You may be driving along a busy highway, or perhaps you're on a rural backroad. It may be the middle of the day, at twilight or on a foggy morning. But regardless of the weather conditions or the location, keep in mind that for that moment in time, in that place, you are entering someone's workspace. And if you do so at a high rate of speed or without allowing proper distancing, you can be endangering a life.

There are things we all can do to make our roadways safer places to work. Keep an eye out for those orange cones and barrels. Watch for signs indicating work crews ahead. Pay close attention to flaggers, and wait your turn to proceed. Yield to oncoming traffic, and give work vehicles a wide berth. And as you drive past these locations, remember that the folks who are performing their jobs in these roadside work zones are there for the benefit of all of us.

They deserve our respect — and our consideration.

# Beating 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.

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

If we can lower any of these – the number of kWh (kilowatt-hours) 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 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!

# Safety Tip

Ronnie Williams | Tazewell Area Supervisor



With the pandemic winding down in many areas, cooped-up social-distancers are likely to be out in droves to celebrate the Fourth of July this year. Make your holiday a safe one for your family by following some common-sense rules for celebrating with and near electricity.

1. Keep fireworks far away from overhead power lines. If fireworks are legal in your community and you choose to set them off yourself, keep them at least 10 feet away from power lines and 35 feet away from high-voltage wires.
2. Keep an eye on your grill. Whether it's electric, gas or charcoal, do not leave a hot grill unattended, even for a few minutes. Their intense heat can easily harm children or pets. Plus, if flames are involved, you need to be there if they get out of control. Cooking accidents are the leading cause of house fires.
3. If you need an extension cord to plug in your grill or another cooking appliance, do not use that cord on more than one device at a time. And do not plug extension cords into each other; they're not designed for that. They can overheat and cause a fire.
4. Keep the grill, blender, TV and other appliances away from the pool and from all water sources. Even if you're a safe distance away from the water, unplug the appliance as soon as you're finished using it.
5. Have a working fire extinguisher on hand.

# PVEC Visits Local School



PVEC employees Bradley Collins, Chris Rosenbalm and Samuel Shipley recently visited Heritage Christian Academy to discuss electrical safety and demonstrate how a bucket truck operates. We are proud to provide our future members this important information on electrical safety.



# Bringing Fiber to Your Home

**P**owell Valley Electric Cooperative understands that broadband access has become a necessity for many cooperative members. While the road to broadband can be a lengthy one, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors is committed to provide broadband services to all members throughout the cooperative's system. Based on the direction of our Board, PVEC Fiber, a partnership between Powell Valley Electric Cooperative and Scott County Telephone Cooperative, was created to fulfill this commitment. This multi-year project will help the Cooperative enrich the lives of its members and serve as a basis to stimulate economic growth for the region.

The process of building a fiber infrastructure network from the ground up is no small job. The opportunities for grant funding and the ability to receive material play a factor in which area to begin the fiber buildout. As of today, we have received grant funding in Sharps Chapel and in areas of Virginia. We will continue to apply for additional grant funding allocated for broadband expansion. Grant projects have deadlines that must be met to honor the contract. As the fiber project began, the amount of time it took to receive fiber material after an order was placed neared 52 weeks. Now, the material is received monthly. The monthly material allotments will vary in fiber wire size and hardware. The location of the fiber buildout will be determined by the material that is received.

To bring fiber to an area, several steps must be completed. First, the design of the system must go through an engineering process. This includes determining the size and path of the fiber cable. The locations for fiber optic cabinets, which house the electronics that make the fiber serviceable, must be determined and installed. Second, a fiber optic backbone must be built. A backbone is comparable to a three-phase electrical line, which will feed the individual cable going to the house. Once the backbone has been hung in an area, the fiber optic cable must be

spliced to make the fiber continuous. A backbone fiber cable has from 144 to 288 fibers within its sheathing. Each fiber must be spliced individually. It can take up to two days to complete one splice location on the backbone fiber. This is an example of the time-consuming process of just one step of the fiber process. The spliced cables must now be connected to the electronics sites. Once these steps are complete, broadband service is available to that area.

When an area is serviceable, customers who have requested PVEC Fiber service will be contacted. The line that runs to a home is referred to as a "fiber drop." Once a customer has requested service, an engineer must design the fiber drop going into the home. The completed design will be given to a construction line crew. After the drop is run to the home, a splicing crew must splice the fiber drop to the enclosure or loop on the pole. After these steps are complete, the installation inside the home can be scheduled by a PVEC Fiber representative.

The task to bring broadband to every cooperative member is massive, and the road for some will be long. Today, PVEC Fiber crews are working six days a week and additional fiber contractors have been hired. As of early June, we have hung approximately 900 miles of backbone and installed over 1,100 services to the home.

Here at PVEC Fiber, we promise to continue the expansion of broadband coverage throughout the region as quickly and as safely as possible. If you haven't already, call your local PVEC office to get on our interest list or complete the PVEC Fiber Request Form at [pve.coop](http://pve.coop). To help our members understand our current progress, updates will be provided in *Cooperative Living* magazine and on our website. We appreciate your patience as we strive to bring this life-changing infrastructure to the communities we serve — just like PVEC started doing in 1938 when families in our area received electric service for the very first time.

# 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 13 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

Five 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 2021 scholarship recipients are:

- William Fugate of Tazewell, a student at Claiborne High School
- Elizabeth Napier of Harrogate, a student at Claiborne High School
- Emma Brooks of Harrogate, a student at Claiborne High School
- Brianna Trent of Tazewell, a student at Claiborne High School
- Jordan Walker of Sharps Chapel, a student at Union County High School

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

"We commend these students on their outstanding academic achievements," says Russell G. "Rusty" Brown, chair of the VMDAEC Education Scholarship Foundation Board and vice chairman of the board of directors at Northern Neck Electric Cooperative. "Our electric cooperatives are delighted to provide support to these worthy students, as they represent a future generation of leaders in their communities."

The Foundation awarded Worth Hudson Scholarships of \$1,000 each to 57 students. They are named in honor of Hudson, the first chairman of the VMDAEC Education Scholarship Foundation.

Since 2001, the Foundation has provided approximately 780 scholarships totaling more than \$800,000 to aspiring college students as well as to the next generation of electric lineworkers.

"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 Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives.

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](http://vmdaec.com/scholarship).

## Nominees by Nominating Committee

On Thursday, June 3, the Powell Valley Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee met for the purpose of nominating three candidates for the cooperative's board of directors for three-year terms to begin in September. The individuals nominated are as follows:

District 2 – Roger Ball

District 7 – Mike Shockley

District 8 – David Kindle

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

## Three Cutting-Edge Technologies to Save Energy at Home

by Maria Kanevsky

There are many cutting-edge technologies currently being developed to become the latest way to improve the efficiency of your home.

### REFRIGERATORS

One emerging technology that can save energy is the magnetic refrigerator. Most refrigerators use a traditional compressor to cool perishables, but magnetic refrigerators use a magnetic field as an innovative way to cool food. This is possible through a phenomenon called the "magnetocaloric effect" which causes certain materials to cool down when a magnetic field is removed. This creates a more energy-efficient refrigerator, using approximately 30% less energy than traditional refrigerators. There are a few magnetic refrigerators commercially available, however, the market is still extremely limited. Researchers and universities are currently working to improve this technology.

### COOL ROOFS

Certain types of roofing can reflect more sunlight than others, which can help to keep your home cooler, therefore reducing your need for air conditioning. These "cool roofs" are specifically designed to absorb less heat and reflect more sunrays than traditional roofs. Cool roofs are lighter in color and can

use reflective paint, highly reflective tiles, or a reflective sheet covering. If you're considering a new roof for your home, a cool roof may be a great option to reduce energy use.

### CLOTHES DRYER

If you're looking to save energy in the laundry room, a heat pump clothes dryer can help reduce energy use by at least 28% compared to standard dryers. Instead of releasing warm and humid air through a vent outside the home, heat pump clothes dryers work by sending humid air through an evaporator that removes moisture without losing too much heat. Several commercial brands like Whirlpool and Samsung sell Energy Star-certified heat pump dryers, and the cost typically ranges from \$900 to \$1,500 depending on additional features.

As with any new technology, prices will become more affordable as these efficiency options become more mainstream.

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*Maria Kanevsky writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing electric co-ops in Virginia, Maryland and Delaware, and across the country.*