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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

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
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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR GENERAL MANAGER

Brad Coppock | Interim General Manager

Building a Brighter Future and a 'Brighter Virginia'

As someone whose profession has been built around the distribution of electricity, I guess you might say that I have a soft spot in my heart for Thomas Edison. Some people might assume that the invention of the electric lightbulb came fairly easily to such an indisputably brilliant man. Not so!

Edison and his team actually worked on at least 3,000 different theories to develop an efficient incandescent lamp. He tested no fewer than 6,000 different materials in his search for the most suitable filament.

Through it all, however, he showed a remarkable ability to persevere in the face of adversity.

When asked about his dogged determination to achieve his goal, he had this to say: "The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time."

Co-ops like Powell Valley Electric are, by our very nature, resilient. We came about because for-profit utilities weren't interested in bringing electricity all the way out to rural areas; it just wouldn't pay to try to serve sparsely populated locations. But people in the country needed power just as much — if not more — than those who lived in cities.

When folks banded together to form Powell Valley Electric Cooperative back in 1938, they were refusing to take "no" for an answer. When others might have accepted defeat, they said, in essence, "We'll do it ourselves." By not giving up, they developed resilience — and that's a trait that continues to serve us well

even today.

In the eight decades we've been in existence, we've persevered through many obstacles and hardships. We've seen damages to our electric system from devastating storms. We've experienced financial challenges during economic downturns and periods of slow growth. But when times were tough, we never failed to push through on behalf of our members.

With a global pandemic that cost lives and livelihoods, we were tested last year as never before. As difficult as it was to navigate this unprecedented time of trial, we refused to give up or give in. We did what it took to keep the lights on.

**When times were tough,
we never failed to push through
on behalf of our members.**

It's a commitment we share with co-ops across the state. Together, we are building a "Brighter Virginia" by investing in a stronger, better prepared and more resilient future for the communities we serve. We take great pride in the infrastructure we build and the connections we make. The contributions of electric co-ops like Powell Valley Electric Cooperative are transforming the future of our state's rural and suburban communities through energy infrastructure, broadband, economic development, education and more.

Just as Thomas Edison was determined to make a brighter, longer-lasting lightbulb, you can count on the fact that Powell Valley Electric Cooperative will join with our sister co-ops throughout the state to keep building a brighter, more resilient Virginia.



We're Ready for Storm Season, Are You?

Now that summer is in full swing, there are more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy the warmer weather. Summertime brings many of our favorite activities like cooking out with family and friends, afternoons on the water, and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

But summer months also make conditions right for dangerous storms. These potential weather events can cause destruction to an electrical system, but Powell Valley Electric Cooperative crews are ready and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area.

When major storms knock out power, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines. It is important for you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during major storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends the items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but you can visit ready.gov for additional resources.

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).
- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your first-aid kit is stocked

with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.

- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge, and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

Listen to local news or a NOAA weather radio for storm and emergency information.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs, including on your property.

We can never predict Mother Nature's plans, but we recommend that you act today because there is power in planning. From our co-op family to yours, we hope you have a safe and wonderful summer.

2021 Electric Cooperative Creative Writing Competition

Each year, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative takes four high school juniors to Washington, D.C., as part of the Electric Cooperative Washington Youth Tour to learn about history, government and leadership. Health concerns prevented the 2021 trip, so the co-op presented scholarships to this year's winners.

Students from across the co-op's service area could enter the contest by writing a creative short story about the various ways Powell Valley Electric is investing in a brighter future for the communities it serves. The short stories are judged by an outside source and scored based on originality, appropriate treatment of theme, knowledge of the subject, grammar and composition.

Lillian Stubblefield, J. Frank White Academy student, was the top winner. Her story will also compete with the top stories from throughout Tennessee for \$3,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000 college scholarships sponsored by the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association. Other top winners were Jaden Brock, Cumberland Gap High School, second place; Amelia Serrenho, Cumberland Gap, third; and Caleb Carney, J. Frank White, fourth.



Lillian Stubblefield



Jaden Brock



Amelia Serrenho



Caleb Carney

Whether it be through the Youth Tour program or scholarships, supporting the future of these students and the communities they represent is an investment that will create a brighter future for us all. We are excited to see them grow their talents and knowledge. The entire team at Powell Valley Electric Cooperative is rooting for their success, and we are confident they will each find ways to impact our communities in the future.



We Need Your Current Phone Number

Please check the phone number listed on the detachable portion of your electric bill to make sure it is correct. We need your updated phone number to ensure that we continue to provide you with the most efficient service. To update your phone number, please choose one of the following options:

1. Enter your correct phone number on the bottom portion of your electric bill and return the stub when making your payment.
2. Call your local PVEC office and one of our customer service representatives will be happy to help you make this change.
3. Visit billing.pve.coop. If you currently have a User ID, simply click on "My Account" then "Account Profile." If you do not have a User ID, you will be required to create one.



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!



Suds and Savings

10 ways to save energy in the laundry room

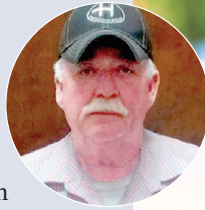
Your clothes washer and dryer account for a significant portion of energy consumption from major appliances, and let's face it — laundry is no one's favorite chore. Make the most of your laundry energy use! There are several easy ways you can save energy (and money) in the laundry room. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends the following tips for saving on suds:

1. **Wash with cold water.** Switching from warm water to cold water can cut one load's energy use by more than half, and by using a cold-water detergent, you can still achieve that brilliant clean you'd normally get from washing in warm water.
2. **Wash full loads when possible.** Your washing machine will use the same amount of energy no matter the size of the clothes load, so fill it up if you can.
3. **Use the high-speed or extended spin cycle in the washer.** This setting will remove more moisture before drying, reducing your drying time and the extra wear on clothing.
4. **Dry heavier cottons separately.** Loads will dry faster and more evenly if you separate heavier cottons like linens and towels from your lightweight clothing.
5. **Make use of the "cool down" cycle.** If your dryer has this cycle option, you can save energy because the clothes will finish drying with the remaining heat in the dryer.
6. **Use lower heat settings to dry clothing.** Regardless of drying time, you'll still use less energy.
7. **Use dryer balls.** Dryer balls, usually wool or rubber, will help keep clothes separated for faster drying, and they can help reduce static, so you can eliminate dryer sheets.
8. **Switch loads while the dryer is warm.** This allows you to take advantage of the remaining heat from the previous cycle.
9. **Clean the lint filter after each drying cycle.** If you use dryer sheets, remember to scrub the filter once a month with a toothbrush to remove excess buildup.
10. **Purchase Energy Star-rated washers and dryers.** When it's time to purchase a new washer or dryer, look for the Energy Star label. New washers and dryers that receive the Energy Star rating use about 20% less energy than conventional models.

To learn about additional ways you can save energy at home, visit the Department of Energy's home efficiency page at energy.gov/energysaver.

Safety Tips

Joey Southern | Sneedville Area Supervisor



When temperatures rise, a refreshing dip in the water is a great way to cool off. But for all the fun to be had, there are electrical safety hazards to be mindful of as you and your family enjoy summer recreation. Water is an excellent conductor of electricity. Here are some important safety considerations to remember in order to stay safe this summer.

AT THE LAKE

Familiarize yourself with safety practices at your marina. Dock electrical systems should include protection by ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and be inspected annually by professionals familiar with marine codes. Obey posted “no swimming” signs. Check to see if the marina has an electricity detection/warning system.

Make sure your boat is wired safely. An improperly wired houseboat plugged into a marina’s power pedestal or a faulty onboard battery charger can energize the hull of a boat — which could cause the water around it to become lethal.

AROUND THE POOL

Mold on the inside of the lenses of underwater pool lights could be an early indication of a water leak. Have underwater lights, junction boxes and wiring connections inspected by a licensed electrician.



Keep electrical cords and wired devices well away from the water. Know the location of electrical switches and circuit breakers for pool equipment and lights and how to turn off the power in an emergency.

Make sure you have a fiberglass shepherd’s crook or rescue hook nearby to retrieve someone in distress.

IN THE BACKYARD

Double-check to be sure there’s no damage to the power cord of your electric pressure washer. Using an extension cord with an electric pressure washer can compromise the GFCI effectiveness and result in electric shock.

High-powered water guns can be a ton of fun, but keep in mind that some offer a range of 50 feet. If you shoot water at a power line, electricity can travel down the stream of water right back to you.

TVA Partnership Awards Local Schools STEM Grant

The Tennessee Valley Authority, in partnership with Powell Valley Electric Cooperative and Bicentennial Volunteers Incorporated (a TVA retiree organization), recently awarded Cumberland Gap High School, Forge Ridge School, Heritage Christian Academy and Hancock Elementary each \$5,000 for STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education projects.

The grant award is a part of \$800,000 in competitive STEM grants awarded to nearly 200 schools across TVA’s seven-state service territory. Across the valley, educators submitted projects large and small, to further their STEM education initiatives in the classroom.

Cumberland Gap High School’s Panther Podcast project will establish a podcast and mobile studio for the school; Hancock County Elementary’s project is an ecosystem study of the Clinch River, while Heritage Christian

Academy’s project is Augmented and Virtual Learning through Google Classroom. Forge Ridge School’s project will help with Pandemic Relief through the purchase of sanitizing spray and face thermometers to deter the spread of the virus.

“Congratulations to all of the winning schools for being a TVA STEM grant recipient. These grants will fund innovative projects and potentially be the stepping stones of tomorrow’s engineers, programmers and scientists. We are excited to be part of the process and are grateful that TVA is making an investment in our community’s most precious resource ... our children.” says Brad Coppock, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative’s interim general manager.

The competitive grant program provided teachers an opportunity to apply for funding up to \$5,000 and preference was given to grant applications that explored TVA’s primary areas of

focus: environment, energy, economic and career development and community problem solving as well as pandemic related projects. Schools that receive grant funding must receive their power from a TVA distributor.

“Despite the new challenges Valley teachers faced in 2020, they are still focused on providing the best STEM education possible and have adjusted to new ways of teaching,” says Community Engagement Senior Program Manager Rachel Crickmar. “I am proud of the partnerships we have built with these amazing educators across the Tennessee Valley over the past few years and am pleased to be able to provide some support through this program. Through the grants awarded this year, over 72,000 students will be directly impacted across the Valley.”

A full list of the grant recipients can be found at tvastem.com.