



# Powell Valley Electric Cooperative News

*A message from your General Manager:*



Randell Meyers  
General Manager  
& CEO

## POWELL VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

420 Straight Creek Road  
P.O. Box 1528  
New Tazewell, TN 37824

Office Hours: M-F 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

### Tazewell Office:

Service Requests: (423) 626-0707  
Billing Inquiries: (423) 626-0706  
Outages/Trouble: (423) 626-5204  
Other Inquiries: (423) 626-5204

### Jonesville Office:

Service Requests: (276) 346-6003  
Billing Inquiries: (276) 346-6003  
Outages: (276) 346-6065  
Other Inquiries: (276) 346-6016

### Sneedville Office:

All Inquiries: (423) 733-2207

Calls to all PVEC locations will be answered by emergency operators after office hours, on weekends & holidays.

Visit us at [pve.coop](http://pve.coop)

You may also contact us at [info@pve.coop](mailto:info@pve.coop)

Randell Meyers  
General Manager & CEO

Ronnie Williams  
Tazewell Area Supervisor

Jason Stapleton  
Jonesville Area Supervisor

Joey Southern  
Sneedville Area Supervisor

*Powell Valley Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

## A Paycheck and Purpose

In a few short weeks, hundreds of young people from our service area will be walking across a stage, collecting their diplomas and entering the next phase of their lives. It's a time of important decisions and big opportunities. Some of these young people will continue their education at a college or trade school. We are fortunate to have several higher-education institutions nearby.

These local schools provide graduates with a solid education and the foundation to build a great career.

Others will enter the workforce, securing a job at a local factory, beginning an apprenticeship program or taking a position with a family business. A career in the trades can provide abundant opportunities and serious job security.

When I graduated from high school, my focus was on one thing: finding a career that would allow me to provide for my family. Earning potential seemed very important at the time, and most of my decisions were based on that.

Earning potential is certainly an important consideration, but I challenge this year's graduates to consider something I completely overlooked at their age: finding a career with purpose.

Each day, our team at Powell Valley Electric Cooperative works to keep the lights on for more than 32,000 people — all our friends and neighbors right here in southwest Virginia and northeast Tennessee. It is not always easy work, but at the end of the day, our team goes home knowing they have helped make the communities we serve better places to live.

In the modern economy, everything depends on a reliable supply of energy — health care to education and manufacturing to commerce. If we don't do our jobs, hospitals can't perform surgeries, cellphones stop working and factories screech to a halt. The responsibility is big, but that's one of the many reasons our employees take such pride in their work.

We have a mighty purpose — to provide an essential service to our communities. The rewards of our work go beyond paychecks and vacation time.

My message to this year's graduates is this: Whether you continue your education or enter the workforce, pursue a career with purpose. Find your own, unique way to make a difference for the people around you, and you will never look back with regret.

At the risk of getting ahead of ourselves — we know how that last semester of your senior year can be — the team at Powell Valley Electric Cooperative extends our congratulations to the class of 2020. We are excited for the opportunities that lie ahead for you. Who knows? Maybe one day you'll be a part of our team here at the co-op.

— Randell W. Meyers

## CLOSING NOTICE

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative offices will be closed April 10th 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.



Powell Valley Electric Cooperative received special recognition for its culture of safety during the Jan. 27 meeting of the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives' Board of Directors in Richmond.

Jeff Edwards, president and CEO of Southside Electric Cooperative and VMD Board Safety Committee chairman, presented a Certificate of Safety Achievement to Dale McNeil, a member of the PVEC board.

The award from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association recognizes dedication to employees and public safety and commitment to regulatory compliance and loss control practices. Called the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program, this national safety program is coordinated in partnership with statewide associations and utilizes a framework for continuous improvement to advance safety performance and culture.

## Sneedville Area Supervisor Joey Southern shares safety tips



For many of us, it is hard to beat the feeling of being outside and enjoying the first warm day of spring. Whether you are just enjoying a walk around the yard or grabbing some tools to complete some project that you put off all winter, be sure that you keep these springtime electrical safety tips in mind.

- **Be aware of overhead power lines.** Don't fly kites or drones anywhere near electric lines or substations. Be sure to keep ladders a safe distance from electric wires while cleaning gutters or completing other spring chores. Materials, tools and all parts of your body should always stay at least 15 feet away from electric lines.
- **Call before you dig.** Call 811 before digging in your yard. Even if it is something as simple as planting a tree, it is important to know what is below the ground. A quick phone call could save your life and your pocketbook.
- **Trees and electric lines don't mix.** Before trimming trees or allowing kids to play in trees or bushes, make certain that there are no electric lines hidden in the leaves and branches.
- **Check your cords.** Before using extension cords or electric tools, check for frayed cords, damaged plugs and other wear. Don't use damaged equipment until it has been repaired.
- **Energy and water make a dangerous combination.** Keep extension cords and other electrical equipment away from pools, fountains or ponds. Be sure that sprinklers and irrigation equipment do not spray water onto power lines or other electrical equipment.

If you have questions about electric equipment on your property or how to be safe around power lines, contact your local Powell Valley Electric Cooperative office. We want you and your family to be safe every day.

## What's a-Cooking?

John Collins shares his wife Charli's recipe for Banana Bread. John has worked with the Cooperative since 2000.

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1½ cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ⅔ cup sugar
- ¾ cup oats
- ¼ cup canola oil
- 2 large eggs
- ½ cup milk
- 3 ripe bananas
- ½ cup walnuts (optional)

### Topping Ingredients:

- ½ cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons softened butter
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon

### DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray or butter 9-by-5-inch loaf pan. In a medium bowl, combine dry ingredients (flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, sugar and oats). In a large bowl, combine wet ingredients (oil, eggs, milk and bananas). Pour dry ingredients into the bowl with the wet ingredients. Mix by hand until combined. Add walnuts, if using. Do not overmix.

Prepare the topping by using a fork to break up the butter, sugar, cinnamon and flour mixture until it looks like wet sand.

Pour only half of the batter into the pan and sprinkle with half of the topping. Then pour the remainder of the batter into the pan and sprinkle with the remainder of the topping. Bake for 50-60 minutes.

# Three Ways to Electrify Your Lawn Care

Spring is just around the corner, and you can practically smell the freshly cut grass. If you're in the market to upgrade your lawn care equipment, you may want to consider electric (or battery-powered) options.

Gas-powered lawn mowers and trimmers may be your go-to, but times are a changin'. Electric lawn care equipment options are becoming more popular than ever, offering consumers faster charging times, longer battery life and quieter, greener products compared with their gas-powered counterparts. Here are three ways you can electrify your lawn care this spring.

## Electric Lawn Mowers

Electric lawn mowers have come a long way over the last few years. Early models required corded connections, which were tricky to manage — but the cord has been cut. Newer cordless electric mowers are certainly more expensive than gas-powered mowers, but much of the upfront cost can be recovered since electricity is a less expensive fuel than gas, and electric engines generally require less maintenance than gas engines. Cordless electric mowers typically range from \$200 to \$500.

Electric mowers are suitable for most lawn care needs, with batteries that typically require about one to two hours to fully charge, and most batteries can run for a full

hour. That said, if you have a large yard (half an acre or larger), a gas-powered option might be best to suit your needs.

## Electric Trimmers

Cordless electric string trimmers are a great option for most lawns. Traditionally, like lawn mowers, string trimmers have typically been powered by gas. But new versions of electric trimmers are improving and are now considered worthy competitors of gas-powered models.

Cordless electric trimmers are much quieter and easier to use, but most batteries last about 30 to 45 minutes. If you have a lot of space to trim, you may want to consider a back-up battery or plan to work in short bursts. If you're interested in purchasing an electric trimmer, the main factors to consider are the battery's life, charge time and power. Costs can vary depending on your needs, but you can find a quality version for about \$100.

## Electric Leaf Blowers

After cutting and trimming your lawn, you'll need to clear off those walkways and patios for the finishing touch. If you don't want to deal with the maintenance of a gas-powered blower or the restraints of a corded blower, a cordless electric version is a great option.



Cordless electric leaf blowers are lightweight and easy to maneuver, but they don't offer quite as much power as gas-powered and corded blowers. If your leaf blowing and clearing needs are minimal, a cordless electric leaf blower can get the job done. Costs for a cordless electric blower vary depending on power and battery quality, but you can purchase a dependable model for about \$150 and up.

If you're looking to electrify your lawn care equipment, be sure to do your homework. Search online for the latest reviews, and check trusted websites like [consumereports.org](http://consumereports.org). With a little research, you'll be well on your way to Lawn of the Month — with less maintenance, hassle and noise (and your neighbors will thank you).

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

# Don't Ignore Your Water Heater

Your water heater works hard all year round to make sure your family can take hot showers, rinse caked-on food off of pots and pans in the dishwasher and wash your clothes at any temperature you choose. During the winter, however, the water heater works even harder. Cold weather means it has to spend extra energy to heat water. Extra showers, laundry and dirty dishes during the holiday season means it has to heat more tanks of water to keep up.

So don't ignore it. Like any appliance, your water heater needs attention and maintenance to stay in good working condition.

1. **Take a look.** Most homeowners don't look at their water heaters until there's a problem, but a glance every now and then could keep those problems at bay. If the outside of the tank is rusting, if water is leaking from it or if you see rusty water stains on the floor surrounding it, call a plumber right away.
2. **Reset the temperature.** It's easier than you think to accidentally raise or lower the temperature setting on a water heater, just by knocking it with a mop while you're cleaning the floor, for example. Verify that the appliance is set to 120 degrees. You'll notice a difference in the water temperature in the shower if it's too low or too high.
3. **Insulate the water heater.** Insulating the pipes and tanks will keep heat inside the tank and prevent it from escaping into the air. Consider investing in an inexpensive water heater blanket, usually made from foil or fiberglass. It will help the tank maintain a consistent temperature. A tip: Leave it on year-round.
4. **Call for service.** An annual "flush" will remove sediment and minerals that can build up in the tank and reduce the heater's efficiency and lifespan.





# Change Your Clocks, Change Your Batteries

The second Sunday in March will trigger Daylight Saving Time, when we “spring ahead” and set our clocks forward one hour. That’s also the best day to change the batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors — even if the batteries aren’t dead.

If you don’t have fire alarms and CO detectors, your family is at risk. The alarms will loudly warn you if smoke or gas is present in your home — so you can get out.

Carbon monoxide is a clear, odorless gas that is deadly but hard to detect. If you don’t have an alarm, it’s unlikely you will know if your home has a CO leak.

Carbon monoxide doesn’t come just from cars. Your gas furnace or stove is a potential source of the gas. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency offers these tips for poison prevention:

- Keep gas appliances properly adjusted.
- Use electric space heaters, not gas space heaters.
- Install an exhaust fan, vented to the outdoors, over a gas stove.
- Open flues when wood-burning fireplaces are in use.
- Choose properly sized wood stoves with tight-fitting doors that are certified to meet EPA emission standards.
- Have a trained professional inspect, clean and tune up your central heating system — including furnaces, flues and chimneys — annually. Repair leaks promptly.
- Do not idle your car inside the garage.

## Powell Valley Electric Customer Bill Payment Options

Below is a list of payment options from which Powell Valley Electric Cooperative customers can choose for payment of electric bills:

### Mail

Mail your payment to:  
Powell Valley Electric Cooperative  
P.O. Box 308  
Jonesville, VA 24263

### Online

To pay your electric bill via online banking, visit [pve.coop](http://pve.coop). If you currently have a User ID, simply click on “Pay Bill.” On the Customer Service Portal, click “Payments” and then “Make a payment.” If you do not have a User ID, you will be required to create one.

### Phone Payment

You can make phone payments by using a credit card or e-check by calling your local PVEC office.

### Local Office Night Depository

PVEC office night depository provides you the convenience of dropping your electric bill payments into the depository any time.

### Drive-through Deposit Box

For your convenience we have installed a drive-through deposit box at the New Tazewell office. The deposit box is located along the drive at the front of

the office. You may now deposit payments at any time without ever leaving your car. As we suggest with our regular night deposit box, please do not deposit cash.

### Local Bank Locations

Following is a list of bank locations where Powell Valley Electric Cooperative customers may pay their electric bills. At these locations, payments must be made by the due date.

#### New Tazewell:

Commercial Bank  
First Century Bank  
First State Financial  
Home Federal

#### Sneedville:

CIVIS Bank  
First Century Bank

#### Tazewell:

First Century Bank

#### Harrogate:

Commercial Bank  
First Century Bank  
Home Federal

#### Kingsport:

Powell Valley National Bank

#### Jonesville:

Powell Valley National Bank  
Lee Bank & Trust

#### Rose Hill:

Farmers & Miners Bank

#### Pennington Gap:

Lee Bank & Trust  
Powell Valley National Bank  
Farmers & Miners Bank

#### Gibson Station:

Farmers & Miners Bank

#### Big Stone Gap, Wise, Duffield

Powell Valley National Bank

### Payment at Walmart

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative offers the convenience of paying your electric bills at Walmart for a nominal fee. To take advantage of this option, your electric bill payments must be paid by the due date.