



## Holiday Closing Notice

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Friday, July 3, in observance of the Independence Day holiday. Have a safe and fun-filled holiday!

### 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  Email  
pve.coop info@pve.coop

### Tazewell Office

Service Requests: 423-626-0707

Billing Inquiries: 423-626-0706

Outages/Trouble/Other Inquiries: 423-626-5204

### Jonesville Office

Service Requests/Billing Inquiries: 276-346-6003

Outages: 276-346-6065

Other Inquiries: 276-346-6016

### Sneedville Office

All Inquiries: 423-733-2207

### General Manager & CEO

Randell Meyers

### 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.

## PVEC Responds to COVID-19

### A message from your General Manager



Randell Meyers  
General Manager & CEO

In the wake of the public health threat posed by COVID-19, Virginia's consumer-owned electric co-ops are taking steps to protect our consumer-members and employees, as well as the distribution grid that powers communities across the state. During the evolving COVID-19 challenges, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative continues to provide safe, reliable electric service to our members and the communities we serve by implementing procedures to ensure this level of service is maintained.

### PROTECTING PEOPLE AND THE POWER GRID

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative has implemented practices to help ensure business continuity and the reliability of its energy systems. If the need were to arise, co-ops operate with a well-developed mutual assistance program that enables shared resources and expertise during emergency situations.

We modified operations to ensure the health and well-being of members and employees. These changes included closing lobbies and asking employees to report to work in staggered shifts. Although our lobbies were closed, members could still conduct business with our offices over the phone or by using our temporary mobile drive-thru services. As restrictions are being lifted, we have reopened our lobbies. Our front offices have been modified, and new social distancing procedures are in place.

We are working to ensure that everyone has access to reliable energy for their homes and businesses. Our members can be confident that the lights will stay on.

### EXTENDING A HELPING HAND TO OUR COMMUNITIES

In recognition of the economic pressure that some of our members and communities faced during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative understood the hardships some members faced and suspended service disconnections and waived late fees.

These disconnection suspensions were not bill waivers. Bill balances continued to accrue during this grace period, and these bills will need to be paid in the future.

After food, water and medicine, reliable energy is critical to maintain health, safety, comfort and connection. That is why we took these temporary actions to support our communities.

I would like to thank our members for helping us keep everyone safe during the pandemic by using our temporary drive-thru service or by managing accounts online or by phone. While our lobbies have reopened, members are still encouraged to take advantage of one of our alternative payment methods.

Concern for community is a core cooperative principle. I have observed that during trying times like these, our people do have great concern for each other and the community, and for all others who are affected. We unite and we work together, and in the long run that will help us through this. We continue to extend our heartfelt good wishes to all of you as together we work through this challenging time.



## Why We Trim Trees

There are a lot of things in life that we take for granted — the sun will always rise in the East, the warmth of spring will follow the cold of winter, and the lights will come on when we flip the switch. Electricity is such an integral part of our modern lives that we don't realize how much we depend on it until it's not available. No lights in the darkness, no heated water, no TV to binge-watch your favorite show or catch the big game.

However, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative works hard every day to make sure that inconvenient or dangerous power outages are kept to a minimum. In fact, we kept the lights on 99.94% of the time last year. That type of reliability doesn't happen by accident. We invest in new equipment, training for employees and maintenance for the entire electric system. A big part of those maintenance efforts are actually preventative measures — keeping the rights-of-way clear of trees and other vegetation that can lead to power outages.

Right-of-way maintenance is one of the biggest expenditures for Powell Valley Electric Cooperative. We trim several feet on each side of our power lines to clear hazards, such as limbs, that could touch the lines during windy conditions, dead limbs or trees that could fall on the lines, or other vegetation that may make it difficult for crews to make repairs.

This year, aerial-saw right-of-way tree trimming has been utilized as part of PVEC's right-of-way maintenance. Aerial

tree-trimming work is completed by flying above and along the power lines, cutting the lateral vegetation. This method helps with vegetation management in areas that are difficult to access by traditional bucket truck and tree-climbing crews.

A clear right-of-way is important not only to keep the lights on but also for safety reasons. Water is a conductor of electricity, and trees and other vegetation contain lots of water. If they come in contact with a power line, it creates a significant safety hazard to people and pets. The safety of our consumer-members and employees is our No. 1 priority.

Maintaining a clear right-of-way also helps us keep your electric rates low. Trees are frequently the cause of power outages, and that means broken poles and wires that must be replaced. This not only delays the return of electricity to your home or business, but it also adds up to a lot of overtime hours and replaced equipment. These expenses add up, and they can have an impact on your electric bill.

We will do everything possible to guarantee the safe and reliable flow of power to our consumer-members, but there are a few things you can do to help. Allow our crews access to your property to complete necessary right-of-way maintenance, and be aware of where you plant new trees and other landscaping.

By working together, we can keep our community safe, keep the lights on and keep our costs low.

## Nominees by Nominating Committee

On Wednesday, 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 1 - Mikel Sharp

District 3 - Judith Robertson

District 6 - Dale McNiel

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

## What's a-Cooking?

Travis Tolliver shares his wife Morgan's recipe for cheesecake. Travis has worked in the Tazewell area since 2004.

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 tablespoon soft, unsalted butter
- 2 cups of ground pecans, almonds or your favorite cookies
- 4 8-oz. packages of cream cheese, softened
- ½ cup heavy cream
- 1½ cups sugar
- 4 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Butter an 8-by-3-inch springform cake pan. Cover and dust the pan with your choice of ground pecans, almonds or cookies for crust.

Combine cream cheese, heavy cream and sugar until smooth. Add eggs and vanilla and blend with an electric mixer.

Pour in prepared pan and place pan in a large roasting pan. Add boiling water in roasting pan to the middle of the springform pan.

Bake until firm, for approximately two hours. Add more boiling water if needed to keep midway of pan. Keep oven ajar using a wooden spoon while baking.

After baking, set in refrigerator and chill overnight.



## 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 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!*



**THANK  
YOU  
FOR ALL  
YOU DO**

**TO ALL THE**

grocery store employees • first responders •  
cleaning crews • postal workers • health care  
workers • lineworkers • farmers • drivers •  
and all the helpers who are keeping this country going

**Concern for community is at the heart of  
our cooperative communities**



**POWELL VALLEY  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**



## Safety Tips

Ronnie Williams  
Tazewell Area Supervisor

### USE CAUTION WITH 4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS

The month of July has always been a favorite of mine. It's the middle of summer, the kids are out of school and, of course, we celebrate Independence Day! Typically on the Fourth, we celebrate our nation's independence with grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, homemade ice cream and other sweet treats, and, last but not least, fireworks. But it's easy to forget that fireworks are dangerous explosives, and carelessness could have deadly consequences.

The federal government has banned sales to consumers of the most dangerous fireworks, such as cherry bombs and M-80s. But sparklers, firecrackers and other smaller fireworks remain legal in most states.

To help make sure your holiday celebrations don't end with a trip to the emergency room, follow these safety tips from the Consumer Product Safety Commission:

- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Avoid buying fireworks that are packaged in brown paper because this is often a sign that the fireworks were made for

professional displays and that they could pose a danger to consumers.

- Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities. Young children can suffer injuries from sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees — hot enough to melt some metals.
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks.
- Never try to relight or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.
- Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.
- After fireworks complete their burning, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding it to prevent a trash fire.
- Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them.

## Know the difference between disinfecting and sanitizing



When it comes to cleaning, not all jobs are created equal. When you've got a big mess in the kitchen — do you clean, disinfect or sanitize? These terms are often used interchangeably, but believe it or not, each are different.

Cleaning dirt or food from a surface, for example, doesn't necessarily kill germs and bacteria that can cause us to become sick. That's why it's important to know the difference between disinfecting and sanitizing. The CDC offers the following guidance.

Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces or objects. Disinfecting works by using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces or objects. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection. Hospitals, for example, disinfect areas that have come into contact with bodily fluids, and parents typically disinfect areas where a baby's diaper is changed.

Sanitizing lowers the number of germs on surfaces or objects to a safe level, as judged by public health standards or requirements. This process works by either cleaning or disinfecting surfaces or objects to lower the risk of spreading infection. Most people sanitize kitchen surfaces that come into contact with food.

Pay close attention to hazard warnings and directions on product labels. Cleaning products and disinfectants often call for the use of gloves or eye protection. For example, gloves should always be worn to protect your hands when working with bleach solutions.

Visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) for more information on how to protect yourself and your family.