



Concern for Community

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative is proud to announce it has partnered with the Tennessee Valley Authority and has awarded \$20,000 to be distributed to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program organizations that serve the counties in Powell Valley Electric Cooperative's service territory. This funding is to provide assistance with electric bills for Powell Valley Electric Cooperative consumer-members.

Funding from Powell Valley Electric Cooperative has been matched by TVA's COVID-19 Community Care Fund, which helps local power companies meet immediate needs in their communities by providing matching funds for local initiatives that address hardships created by this pandemic.

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Jonesville Office

Service Requests/Billing Inquiries: 276-346-6003

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*Powell Valley Electric Cooperative is an
Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.*

A Moment of Hope

A message from your General Manager

Randell Meyers | General Manager & CEO



The coronavirus pandemic has impacted many important events this year. Public health concerns forced organizers of graduations, weddings and birthday parties — even the 2020 Olympics — to cancel or postpone to later dates. Even the Powell Valley Electric Cooperative board made the difficult decision to modify our annual meeting last month.

Each October, our nation's cooperatives, including Powell Valley Electric Cooperative, recognize National Co-op Month. While this is a relatively insignificant celebration, and certainly a poor substitute for other meaningful events, I propose that Co-op Month holds greater significance this year than ever before. Here's why:

CO-OPS EXIST TO SERVE

Co-ops are built to solve a problem, not make a profit. In our case, members of our community needed power, so they built Powell Valley Electric Cooperative to bring power to places that other power companies refused to serve. Even today, we continue this mission to serve our community, neighbors and friends.

CO-OPS BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER

Whether it is an agriculture co-op, a power co-op or a credit union, all cooperatives share the fundamental

notion that people can accomplish more when they work together.

As the coronavirus pandemic impacts our nation's health and economy and a divisive presidential election highlights some of our greatest challenges, the co-op principles of service and unity seem to hold special significance this year.

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative will use Co-op Month to recognize the hard work of our team throughout this challenging time, and we invite you to join us by seeking out opportunities to serve others in your community.

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative plans to also participate in the Tennessee Electric Co-op Day of Service, an annual event to give back to the community we serve.

Even if you don't celebrate Co-op Month, I hope you and your family can find something to celebrate. Maybe one of your kids makes a good grade or masters a new skill. Maybe you or someone you love receives some good health news. Maybe you just find a dollar bill on the sidewalk.

It has been a difficult year, and we all need a reason to celebrate, no matter how small it may be. Celebrations are moments of hope, and hope reminds us that brighter days lie ahead.

ANNUAL MEETING EVENTS

We'd like to thank our members for attending the Annual Meeting and especially for your support and understanding. Look for comments and photos from the event in the November-December issue of *Cooperative Living*.

October is National Co-op Month

As an electric cooperative, our top priority is always to provide reliable, affordable energy to you, the members we serve. Because we are a co-op, our mission is to enrich the lives of our members and serve the long-term interests of our local community — and this mission has never been more critical than in recent months.

One of the seven principles that guides all co-ops is “Concern for Community.” This principle is the essential DNA of Powell Valley Electric Cooperative, and it sets us apart from other electric utilities.

October is National Co-op Month, and electric cooperatives across the country are highlighting the many ways we “Power On.” Keeping this theme in mind, PVEC recognizes the essential role we play in serving a special community like ours.

Who would have fathomed in March, the COVID-19 virus would amount to a test of our community and our nation? The changing circumstances due to the pandemic have created both challenges and opportunities. Over the past several months, we’ve all been challenged to operate differently, and Powell Valley Electric Cooperative has stepped up to help our members and strengthen the safety net for our more vulnerable neighbors.

As an essential service, and to ensure reliability of your power supply, we modified our operations to safeguard business continuity. Our line crews and other employees began working on staggered schedules to maintain separation. In the office, we limited and modified meetings and gatherings to allow for safe separation.

For our members impacted by COVID-19 who needed help with their electric bills, we waived late fees and worked with those hardest hit to make special payment arrangements. Powell Valley Electric Cooperative partnered with the Tennessee Valley Authority, by providing funding to local Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program organizations through the COVID-19 Community Care Fund. This funding provided assistance with electric bills for PVEC consumer-members.

This is not to boast about Powell Valley Electric Cooperative’s efforts, but to explain how much we care about this community — because we live here too.

We’ve seen other local businesses rising to meet similar challenges during this time, because that’s what communities do. While the challenges caused by COVID-19 have been daunting, it is encouraging to see how everyone is pulling together.

In 1938, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative was built by the community to serve the community, and that’s what we’ll continue to do — Power On.



WE
POWER
ON

REGARDLESS OF THE
CHALLENGES WE FACE,
STRONG CO-OPS AND
STRONG COMMUNITIES HAVE
MANY THINGS IN COMMON.
WE ADAPT. WE CARE.
WE POWER ON.

OCTOBER IS
CO-OP MONTH

Rural communities depend on Co-op Voters.

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

OCTOBER 3 REGISTRATION DEADLINE	OCTOBER 14-29 EARLY VOTING	OCTOBER 27 ABSENTEE DEADLINE	NOVEMBER 3 ELECTION DAY
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POWELL VALLEY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Fall Into a New Habit

With daylight saving time ending November 1st, remember to change something other than your clock. The National Fire Protection Association recommends that you also change the batteries in your smoke detector. According to NFPA, smoke detectors have cut the number of home fire deaths in half since they were installed in homes during the 1970s. Unfortunately, a third of those smoke alarms won't sound due to dead, missing or disconnected batteries, according to NFPA. While changing your batteries, keep these other smoke alarm tips from NFPA in mind:

- Don't paint the smoke alarm or place decorations near it that might prevent it from working properly.
- Test smoke alarms monthly by using the alarm's test button.
- Replace the batteries in your smoke alarm to keep it in proper working order.
- Your smoke alarm should be replaced once every 10 years.
- Never "borrow" a battery from a smoke alarm.

What's a-Cooking?

Tyler Smith shares his wife Katlyne's recipe for Cowboy Casserole. Tyler has worked with the cooperative since 2019.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb. ground beef
- ½ cup onion, diced
- 1 can (15 oz.) of corn, drained
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese, divided
- ½ cup milk
- 1 can (10.75 oz.) cream of mushroom soup
- ¼ cup sour cream
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- ½ teaspoon onion powder
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 bag (20 oz.) frozen tater tots

INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In a large skillet, cook beef and onion over medium heat until meat is no longer pink. Drain the fat. Stir in corn, 1/2 cup of cheese, milk, soup, sour cream and seasonings. Pour mixture into 9-by-13-inch baking pan and top with a single layer of frozen tots. Sprinkle on the remaining cheese and bake uncovered for 25-30 minutes or until cheese is bubbling.



Safety Tips

Ronnie Williams
Tazewell Area Supervisor

Each year, we become the owners of more and more items that require electricity. Whether it's large TVs, computers or chargers for our phones, we must plug these items in to use or charge them. Frequently, our needs outnumber the available electrical outlets, especially in older homes that have fewer outlets.

work, you should contact an electrician for assistance.

How do you determine how much is too much? Grab your calculator.

First, calculate the total wattage of all the items that are powered by a single circuit — most electronics will be labeled. Divide this combined wattage by the voltage of the circuit (120 volts



Resist the temptation to use multiple extension cords and power strips because overloading outlets can lead to a fire.

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative reminds homeowners to resist the temptation to use multiple extension cords and power strips, because overloading outlets can lead to a fire. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, about 5,300 residential fires each year are caused by overloaded outlets or circuits. Many times, multiple outlets — or even entire rooms — can be on a single circuit. Even if you are using multiple outlets, you can still experience issues if all of the outlets are fed by the same circuit. Circuits should be marked on the breakers in your breaker box. If your breakers are not labeled, you can turn them off one by one to identify which outlets, appliances or household systems are affected. If this doesn't

is typical for most homes). The result will be the amount of amps you're using on the circuit.

Go back to your breaker box to see what size breaker is used for the circuit — most will be 15 or 20 amps. You should only use about 80% of the available amperage on a circuit. If you are above 80%, consider moving some of your devices to other circuits.

Of those 5,300 home fires caused by overloaded outlets and circuits each year, about 2,000 occur during the holidays. You may be surprised how much energy Christmas trees, lights and other electrical holiday décor can consume. Be sure to be aware of the extra wattage you're adding and take the necessary precautions.

Plan Ahead for Power Outages

While any number of things can cause a power outage during the winter months, most likely it is weather-related as heavy wet snow, high winds or ice has interfered with the electrical lines. Because it is impossible to predict what the future holds, it is important to make preparations throughout the year for unforeseen circumstances. Being prepared is the first line of defense, so this is why each year we share with you some tips that could help make these situations a little more bearable.

- Prepare a winter survival kit.
 - Stock up and store food that does not require cooking, such as canned goods, crackers, dried fruit, powdered milk — and remember to set aside water.
 - Be sure to refill all prescriptions.
 - Gather emergency materials, such as a first-aid kit, blankets, flashlights, candles and matches, wood for the fireplace or wood stove, portable fire extinguisher, battery-powered radio and extra batteries.
- Wear extra layers of clothing and use several layers of blankets. Close off all unused rooms that do not need to be heated.
- Keep your refrigerator and freezer doors CLOSED!
- Winterize your home.
 - Remember to maintain and inspect heating equipment and chimneys every year to ensure they're working safely and properly.
 - Add caulk and weatherstripping to windows and doors.
 - Remember to insulate pipes and allow faucets to drip during extreme cold to avoid frozen pipes.
 - Remember to always stay away from downed power lines.

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative works throughout the year to plan ahead and prevent any problems that might cause a disruption of electric service. If bad weather hits and you find yourself without electricity, be assured that Powell Valley Electric Cooperative employees are working to restore your electric service as quickly and safely as possible.

Restoration Updates

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative will have updated radio announcements during a major outage regarding power restoration. For your information, we are providing a list of radio stations where you may tune in for updates:

- WNTT 1250 AM or 93.7 FM, Tazewell, TN
- WMIK 560 AM or 92.7 FM, Middlesboro, KY
- WJNV 99.1 FM, Jonesville, VA
- WSWV 1570 AM or 105.5 FM, Pennington Gap, VA
- WFXV 1490 AM or 98.3 FM, Middlesboro, KY
- WANO 1230 AM or 98.1 FM, Pineville, KY

THE POWER RESTORATION PROCESS

When electricity goes out, most of us expect power will be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm causes widespread damage, longer outages may result. Co-op line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. Below are the steps we take during power restoration, in case you find yourself in the dark.

