# **COOPERATIVE NEWS**





### **Closing Notice**

This Memorial Day, let us pause with reverence to remember those Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice for all of us, for our freedom and for our country's values. In observance of Memorial Day, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Monday, May 27. As always, cooperative dispatchers will be on duty to take your emergency calls. Have a happy and safe holiday.

### **Fiber Update Info**

as of 3/11/2024

Miles of backbone – 1,801 Services installed to the home – 8,882

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

info@pve.coop

Email

Jonesville Office All Inquiries: 276-346-6003

Sneedville Office All Inquiries: 423-733-2207

Tazewell Office All Inquiries: 423-626-5204

General Manager Brad Coppock

Director of Operations Travis Tolliver

Jonesville Area Supervisor Jason Stapleton

Sneedville Area Supervisor Joey Southern

Tazewell Area Supervisor Tyler DeBusk

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

## **How We Restore Power**

e do our best to avoid them, but there's no way around it: Power outages occasionally happen — especially during this time of the year. Thanks to the great work the Powell Valley Electric Cooperative team does each day to strengthen our power system, most of our members experience rare and brief outages. Unfortunately, when strong storms roll through, they sometimes leave damage in their wake.

When the power goes out, how do Powell Valley Electric Cooperative crews know where to start working? How do you know if your outage has been reported? We have answers to these questions and more, and it all starts with a safe, efficient plan for power restoration.

When it's safe for our crews to begin the restoration process, they start by assessing the damage and forming a plan that usually focuses on restoring power to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible.

This process typically begins with repairs to main distribution lines that serve many homes and businesses. After those repairs are made, crews work on smaller lines that feed neighborhoods or streets. Finally, service lines connecting individual homes or businesses are repaired.

We can't control the weather, but we can prepare for it. Powell Valley



### Manager's Message

**Brad Coppock** General Manager

Electric Cooperative keeps a supply of extra poles, transformers and other equipment on hand so we can quickly get to work in the event of an outage. When widespread outages occur, multiple crews will be out in the field simultaneously working to repair damage at multiple locations. We also coordinate with nearby co-ops to bring in additional crews when necessary.

If you experience a power outage, don't assume a neighbor reported it. It's best to report the outage yourself, and we make that easy to do. Members can report an outage through our app or by calling your local Powell Valley Electric Cooperative office.

If you have a medical condition that requires electrical equipment, always have a backup plan in place. This could include stockpiling extra medical supplies or moving to an alternate location until power is restored.

Mother Nature can be unpredictable, but as a member of Powell Valley Electric Cooperative, you can feel confident knowing we're standing by, ready to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

### Heat Pump Financing Available

The Tennessee Valley continues to offer residential heat pump financing for Powell Valley Electric Cooperative members who qualify through the EnergyRight program. The current interest rate of 8% is good through Sept. 30.

Call your local Powell Valley Electric Cooperative office for details on this residential heat pump loan program.



### **PVEC to Host Member** Appreciation Days

At Powell Valley Electric Cooperative, we are proud of our members and thankful for the trust they give us to provide safe, reliable and affordable service. To show our appreciation and gratitude, we invite all members to join us at each office location for food and fellowship.

#### MAY 7: SNEEDVILLE OFFICE

11 a.m.-1 p.m. 340 Jail Street Sneedville, TN 37869

#### MAY 9: JONESVILLE OFFICE

11 a.m-1 p.m. 331 Church Street Jonesville, VA 24263

#### MAY 14: NEW TAZEWELL

11 a.m.-1 p.m. 420 Straight Creek Road New Tazewell, TN 37825

## **PVEC Bylaws: Nominations**

On Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative's annual meeting will be held at Hancock County High School in Sneedville, Tenn.

An important part of your annual meeting is the election of directors. Below is an excerpt from the cooperative's bylaws regarding nominations.

# ARTICLE IV. DIRECTORS, SECTION 4, NOMINATIONS.

It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not more than one hundred twenty (120) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which directors are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) members who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation on the committee to the different districts delineated as director districts. No officer or member of the board of directors shall be appointed a member of such committee. The committee shall prepare and post at all the offices of the Cooperative, at least ninety (90) days before the meeting, a list of nominations for directors.

Any fifteen (15) or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures. Such nominations in writing are required to be in a cooperative office by 5:00 p.m. not less than sixty (60) days prior to the meeting.

The Secretary shall cause the said petition to be posted at the same places where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. The Secretary shall cause to be mailed with the notice of the meeting a statement of the number of directors to be elected, showing separately the nominations made by petition, if any. Nominations to fill vacancies on the board of directors, and the election of the respective directors, shall be for the particular district or districts where the vacancy or vacancies exist or the term or terms thereof is expiring.

This means that any nominations by petition are to be in a Powell Valley Electric Cooperative office not less than 60 days prior to the Cooperative's annual meeting. Nominations by petition, therefore, must be in one of Powell Valley Electric Cooperative's offices by 5 p.m. on July 24, 2024.

## **Youth Leadership Summit**

laiborne High School student Alexander McKinney and Cumberland Gap High School student Reagan Warwick were in Nashville March 18-20 for the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's annual Youth Leadership Summit. The juniors were sponsored by Powell Valley Electric Cooperative.

The 46 delegates at the event received a hands-on look at state government, learned networking and leadership skills, and developed a better understanding of their local electric cooperatives.

Tre Hargett, Tennessee Secretary of State, welcomed the students to the Capitol where they visited with legislators, sat in on committee meetings, and debated and voted on a mock bill.

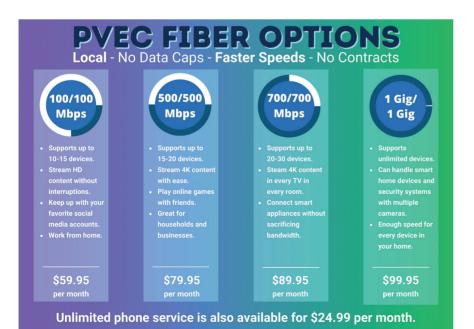
In addition to meeting lawmakers and experiencing the state Capitol, students also developed their leadership and teambuilding skills at the Joe C. Davis YMCA Outdoor Center at Camp Widjiwagen. Delegates also participated in an electric safety demonstration, completed a leadership training course with leadership expert Amy Gallimore, and attended a Nashville



Predators hockey game as special guests of the Preds.

Delegates to the Youth Leadership Summit are encouraged to be leaders and use their talents to improve their communities. "The future of Tennessee is only as strong as the next generation of leaders," says Todd Blocker, vice president of member services for the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and director of the Youth Leadership Summit. "Investing in these young people is a great opportunity to make a lasting impact on the communities we serve. These students are selected by their local electric co-ops, school officials and guidance counselors, and they are among the most talented students in the state. It is an honor to help them learn and grow."

PVEC			Powell Valle Jonesville Office P.O. Box 308 Jonesville, VA 24263 (276) 346-6003		Sneedville Office P.O. Box 193 Sneedville, TN 37869 (423) 733-2207		- Tazewell Office P.O. Box 1528 New Tazewell, TN 37824 (423) 626-5204			1284	
Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 8:00 to 5:00											
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***DISCONNECT DATE IS 4:00 P.M. ON MAY 3, 2024**   ASK ABOUT THESE MEMBER SERVICES   PLEASE PAY BEFORE THEN TO AVOID A \$10.00 CHARGE AND POSSIBLE DISCONNECTION OF SERVICE. NO MORE NOTICES WILL BE MAILED.   A SK ABOUT THESE MEMBER SERVICES   • Bill Payment by Bank Draft   • Energy Audits   • Energy Audits   RETAIN THIS COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS   PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN THIS PORTION WITH PAYMENT											
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**Sample Electric Bill** 

hown here is an example of a Powell Valley Electric Cooperative monthly bill. We have explained some important sections, and, as always, if you have any questions concerning your bill, contact your local PVEC office.

**1. Account number:** To help identify your account.

**2. Service address:** The 911 address for this location.

**3. Meter reading dates:** These are the days of service for which your bill is calculated. The current bill due is based on the previous month's use.

4. Energy-use comparison: This table compares the current bill with the previous month's bill and the same billing period last year. Key information includes days of service and average kilowatt-hours used per day.

**5.** Additional information: TO BE PAID BY DRAFT — Your account will be automatically drafted on the due date. Other messages that can appear on this line are: FINAL BILL — Account is inactive; CR BALANCE DO NOT PAY — Credit balance exists and no payment is required as of the billing date; LEVELIZED — Account is on average balance program.

**6. Late payment charge:** The account will be charged a 1.5% late payment penalty if payment is made after the due date.

7. Disconnect date: The account will be charged a \$10 processing fee and is subject to disconnection if payment is made after 4 p.m. on this date. NO further notices will be mailed.

# 8. Please notify us if your address or telephone number has changed.

**9. Due date:** A payment made after this date will negatively affect your credit with Powell Valley Electric.



## Safety Tips

Shane Bunch Safety Coordinator



Electricity empowers our world, but it also poses some dangerous risks especially for children. It is important to teach your children about electrical safety. Here are some practical tips for parents to teach their kids about staying safe around electricity.

• Identify hazards. Take a walk around your house with your children and point out places that could present potential risks.

• Emphasize outlet safety. Be sure to stress to your kids the risks of sticking objects into outlets. For extra precaution, use outlet covers when outlets are not in use.

• Be cautious around cables. Make sure your kids know to never touch a power line that has fallen to the ground. Also, be sure to never touch or climb on outdoor electrical equipment.

• Stay away from water. Highlight the lethal combination of electricity and water. Teach your children to keep electrical devices far away from sinks, bathtubs, swimming pools and other sources of water.

## Power Up Your Lawn Care With Electric Equipment

he landscape of lawn and garden care is evolving, and electric equipment is at the forefront of this change. While electric lawn tools aren't new, advancements in technology and more options mean prices have become more competitive, making electric equipment an accessible option for many consumers.

### BENEFITS OF ELECTRIC EQUIPMENT

Electric lawnmowers have come a long way since the days of extension cords tethering you to an outlet. Batterypowered mowers offer the same freedom of movement as gas-powered models but with reduced noise and maintenance.

Battery life was once a major drawback to making the switch to electric lawn tools. But today's growing demand for electric equipment has resulted in major advancements for lithium-ion batteries, making them more reliable, cost-effective and efficient. For most consumers, electric lawn tools can get the job done just as well as gaspowered models.

Many electric mowers offer pushbutton starts, and because they are lighter, they are easier to maneuver around tight turns. Improved batteries provide longer run times to tackle larger spaces. Like their gas-powered counterparts, electric mowers are available in push, self-propelled/walkbehind and riding models. And there's no need to refill gas cans or change oil and air filters, resulting in less hassle and maintenance.

Like mowers, electric blowers, string trimmers and chainsaws have fewer moving parts, require minimal maintenance and are quieter. Because electric tools are generally lighter in weight, they're also more ergonomic and easier to maneuver. This feature is especially handy for projects that require tools like chainsaws for precise work.



#### CHOOSE ELECTRIC EQUIPMENT TO MEET YOUR NEEDS

Electric lawn tools have some limitations, so the size and terrain of your outdoor space are important considerations when purchasing new equipment. When comparing gaspowered and electric mowers, consider the torque rating — this is the driving force behind a blade's rotation. On average, electric lawnmowers generate less torque than gas mowers. If you have a challenging outdoor space that includes overgrown brush, tall grass, or hills and dips, torque is a key factor.

Choosing the right type and size mower is particularly important for spaces larger than half an acre. If you have a large property, consider purchasing an extra battery to ensure uninterrupted workflow.

Many manufacturers offer interchangeable batteries and chargers, providing flexibility and convenience. Choosing a single brand can ensure charging compatibility across your lawn tools and streamline charging.

While both gas and electric lawn tools can get the job done, electric equipment generally requires less maintenance, is less expensive to operate and is kinder to the environment.

#### GET GREEN FOR GOING GREEN

Electric tools are quietly redefining the way we approach lawn care. If you're planning to make the switch to electric lawn equipment, be sure to shop around and choose the best equipment to meet your needs.