



Jay County REMC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

484 S 200 W
P.O. Box 904, Portland, IN 47371

PHONE NUMBERS & HOURS

Local.....	260-726-7121
Toll Free.....	800-835-7362
Fax.....	260-726-6240
E-mail	remc@JayREMC.com
Website	www.JayREMC.com

To report an outage or emergency

Call 260-726-7121 or
800-TEL-REMC (835-7362)

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Be ready to provide the following information:

1. Name under which the electric service is listed.
2. Map location number.
3. Your phone number in case we need to call you back.
4. The type of problem you are experiencing, e.g., flickering lights, complete power outage, etc.
5. Hang up when all information has been recorded — other members may be trying to contact the REMC, too.

**Office hours: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Monday-Friday**

CO-OP NOTES

\$50 bill credit drawing winner

The \$50 drawing winner for the month of May was Bernard Grieshop of Portland. Read **Electric Consumer** for your chance to win a \$50 bill credit.

Update your phone info

Having updated information, including your phone number, helps us at Jay County REMC to better reach you in case of outages or other situations.

So what happens if we don't have your correct phone number?

- If you are on the medical priority list, we can't call you.
- If you leave a message, we can't return your call.
- If you are on the courtesy call list, we can't call you.
- If there was a power outage and we want to verify your electricity is back on, we can't call you.

If your phone number has changed please call us at 800-835-7362 or 260-726-7121 to update your information. Thank you.

co-opNews

Information from your electric cooperative

Electricity doesn't vacation

Many members anticipate a lower electric bill when they take a vacation for a week or two. They are not at home cooking, doing laundry, taking showers, running the computer or watching TV and, therefore, expect a much smaller electric bill for that month.

This generally is not the case. Please consider the following questions and energy-saving tips the next time you plan a trip away from home.

Water heater

Was the water heater turned off during vacation?

If it wasn't, it continued to use electricity to keep the water at the usual temperature, though the hot water wasn't being used.

Tip — Turn the water heater's temperature down to the lowest setting. Many water heaters have a "vacation" setting for this purpose. Leave a reminder to turn it back up upon returning home.

Refrigerator

Was the refrigerator unplugged?

If not, it continued to use electricity to keep food cold.

Tip — Should you choose to leave it on, adjust the refrigerator control to a warmer setting. If going on an extended trip, consider emptying the fridge and turning it off. Remember to leave the door open to prevent mildew.

NOTE — Your freezer will operate similarly to the refrigerator, still cooling even though you are not there.

Electronics and electrical appliances

Were any electronic and electrical appliances still connected, such as clocks, dehumidifiers, pumps, automatic-lighting devices, CD/DVD players, TVs, mp3 players and computers?

Even though you are not home, this equipment is still working for you and using electricity.

Tip — Unplug the electronics and electric ap-

pliances before leaving to avoid any electricity being used while you are away.

Heating and air conditioning

Have you checked your thermostat on either system and reset it before you leave on vacation?

Set the thermostat to 85 F, since vacations are typically taken during the summer months when the A/C would be running. If it is a programmable thermostat, use the "hold" or the "vacation" setting to keep it at that temperature.

Lighting

Do you plan to leave lights on in the home while you are away?

Consumers can improve their energy savings, and their home's security, by using timers to operate lights each night. And by installing compact fluorescent bulbs, or CFLs, in those lamps, consumers will be saving more energy, up to 66 percent less in each lamp and the bulb will last approximately 10 times longer than a regular incandescent bulb.

If you are determined that no electricity is to be used during your vacation, you must disconnect the main fuse or breaker at the main entrance panel. Keep in mind that your automatic appliances will stop, your refrigerator and freezer will be turned off, and the dehumidifier will not be running to free the basement of moisture. If your water heater is electric, it will take some time to heat the water after you return home and reconnect the power.

Keep in mind, too, that most vacationers return home with one or two weeks worth of laundry to wash. Then, the water heater may work overtime in the first few days after the vacation.

Remember, even though you are away from home, the electrical requirements for power in your home still exist. Unless you make some disconnections before leaving, your electric use will not change much.

**Jay County REMC's directors and employees
wish you and your family a safe
and fun Fourth of July!**

**The office will be closed on
Monday, July 4, for the holiday.**

**In case of an emergency, please call
726-7121 or 800-835-7362.**

Safety programs teach electrical safety

The Jay County High School Freshman Academy, General Shanks Elementary, East Elementary, Judge Haynes Elementary, Redkey Cub Scouts and Randolph County fourth graders each learned valuable lessons from Jay County REMC personnel this year.

REMC employees stressed the importance of electrical safety and the dangers associated with electricity both during and after school. The programs also touch on areas that have become a concern around the country which you will see throughout this page.

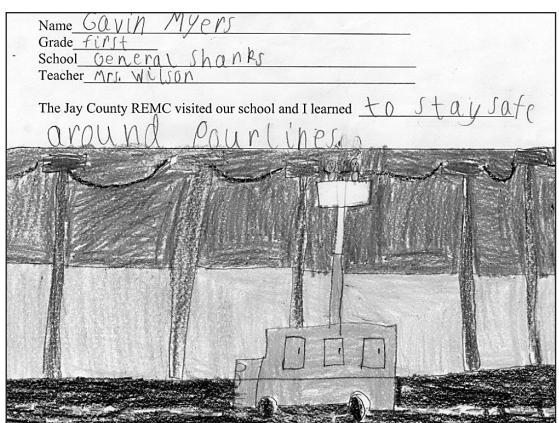
Keeping our communities safe is a role Jay County REMC takes seriously. We want everyone to be safe around electricity.

Please contact Jay County REMC at 800-835-7362 if you have any questions regarding our electrical safety program.



Safety mascot Diggy Piggy was on hand to help with the safety programs and quickly made friends with these students.

Never climb a utility pole or tower!



Gavin Myers, a first grader at General Shanks Elementary, drew this picture after attending the safety program.

Stay in the car if involved in a car accident where wires are downed.



During the safety program, students got a chance to try on linemen equipment. Even the teachers got involved in the process.

Never attempt to climb trees near power lines!



A Jay County REMC employee shows what can happen when something, or someone, comes into contact with power lines.

Fly kites in large open areas like a park or a field, safely away from trees and overhead power lines.



Jay County REMC linemen Phil Cowan, left, and Phil Strait, right, explain the duties of a groundman and a lineman to students.

Don't play on or around pad-mounted electrical equipment!



A trip to the REMC was an opportunity for these students to not only learn electrical safety, but to learn about their electric co-op.



This student participated in the REMC's version of "Minute to Win It" to see how quickly she could don a lineman's gear.

Never go into an electric substation for any reason!

Healing Field to honor military, veterans and first responders

What is a Healing Field? A Healing Field is a flag display set up in recognition of a particular event or people. The Midwest America Healing Field is expected to display approximately 3,000 flags representing military personnel fighting for our freedom, veterans who have fought to protect our freedom, along with law enforcement, firefighters, EMS and other first responders. The event is especially meaningful this year as our nation remembers the 10th anniversary of 9/11. What better time to reflect and honor those who protect our lives and our freedom?

How can you help? Sponsor a flag for \$30. After the event, you may pick up the flag you sponsored and continue to fly it proudly at your home or place of business. The funds raised will locally benefit the Museum of the Soldier as well as the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and PTSD of America. Sponsorship forms are available at Bearcreek Farms and at Jay County REMC.

Volunteer opportunities include putting flags together, making ribbons, participating in the flag installation ceremony, working at the information booth, helping with the flag distribution after the event and many others. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Fred Eischen, program chair, at 877-852-6102.

The story behind the Healing Field began when Paul Swenson, owner of Colonial Flag in Sandy, Utah, had a strong desire to comprehend what happened on 9/11 and to give those involved a way to heal.

Swenson's idea was to place over 3,000 flags on a field, one flag for each victim. He worked with local officials and many volunteer organizations to make the field happen.

"The original intent was to demonstrate the sheer enormity of the human loss that occurred in the terrorist attacks. It became obvious, as more and more volunteers showed up to help set it up, that it had become a very personal gesture of mourning and support for everyone," said Swenson.

The event was covered by several major news organizations and it was estimated over 50,000 cars drove by the field in its first 24 hours. The flags were then sold and profits were donated to various charities.

The Healing Field® Project was created as a non-profit organization to perpetuate the flag memorial display. It is a manageable project for any community or organization wanting to make a difference in their community or to raise funds for charity.



Organizers Carla Strong-Loy and Fred Eischen discuss the Healing Field details.

The Midwest America Healing Field will take place Sept. 2-11 at Bearcreek Farms, located at 8339 N, 400 E, Bryant. It is an opportunity to provide this area with an event that is not political, yet is patriotic and is well-suited for families. There is no cost to attend the event.

Do you know of a soldier coming home, whether for a visit or because he/she is leaving the service? At Bearcreek Farms, Don Eischen will set out flags lining the driveway or front of the property or street for a "Heroes Welcome Home." Contact Eischen at 419-942-1899.

Eischen will usually set up the flags several days to a week before the soldiers are due to arrive home to promote support from the surrounding neighbors and community. He will then come back on an arranged date to take down the flag display. The flags used are flags that were sponsored by his own family at several Healing Fields in the past, as well as some that were unclaimed.

Along with the flags, Operation Freedom Support (a local organization that helps with sending packages to our troops) has provided a banner that says "Welcome Home Soldier – for a job well done."

Flying Old Glory is a magnificent way to honor a hero, celebrate our forefathers fight for our independence or demonstrate appreciation for our troops. May you and your family have a safe Fourth of July!

Kunkler wins calendar contest

When the 2012 Cooperative Calendar of Student Art hits co-op offices (and member's homes) in October, East Elementary fifth grader Olivia Kunkler will be one of the featured artists.

Her drawing of a rainy day in Indiana will grace the month of April. Kunkler is the daughter of Jay County REMC members Brian and Becky Kunkler.

Kunkler's artistic talent emerged at an early age. "I enjoy drawing pictures of animals, especially horses," said Kunkler. Her winning entry shows a totally different shift in what she normally draws. The April picture (shown in last month's **Electric Consumer**) depicts an interesting angle of a rainy day in the city and included some very eye-catching rain drops.

Although it was her second year in entering the calendar contest, it was her first year attempting to draw buildings. As a third grader in 2010, she won an award of merit for her work.

"Olivia spends a lot of time on her artwork. She is a perfectionist," said her mom.

According to her Becky, Olivia did not inherit her artistic touch from her parents. She is just one of eight children who inherited artistic abilities her parents believe came from Grandma Kunkler.

Kunkler is a very active young lady who participates in 4-H and helps her parents on the farm during the summer. She plans on entering the calendar contest next year and we will anxiously await her entry.

Congratulations, Olivia! We look forward to seeing your picture in the 2012 calendar. The calendars will be available this October.



2012 Cooperative Calendar of Student Art winner Olivia Kunkler, center, receives a certificate of achievement from Jay County REMC Director of Marketing and Customer Services Cindy Denney. They are joined by Kunkler's mother, Becky. Her artwork will represent April in the upcoming calendar.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Practice fireworks safety

The following safety procedures should be used when lighting fireworks to keep you and your family safe:

- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them. Some states allow the sale of fireworks but make it illegal to set them off without proper permits.
- Avoid buying fireworks that come in brown paper packaging, as this can often be a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays and could pose a danger to consumers.
- Adults should always supervise fireworks activities. Parents often don't realize that there are many injuries from sparklers to children under five. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 F – hot enough to melt some metals.
- Never have any portion of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Move back a safe distance immediately after lighting.
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have malfunctioned.
- 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 one item at a time, then move back quickly.
- Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.
- After fireworks fully complete their function, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding to prevent a trash fire.

Additional information regarding safety issues and the dangers of fireworks can be found at www.fireworkssafety.org.

Let's celebrate our nation's independence by reducing burns and other injuries.



SIDELINES

Courtesy of Jay County Chamber of Commerce, Jay Community Center and Bearcreek Farms.

July 4: Dunkirk Fourth of July Celebration. Dunkirk City Park. Orma Scruggs, 765-768-6877.

July 4: Portland Fourth of July Celebration. Jay County Fairgrounds. Parade downtown at 11 a.m. Fireworks at dusk. George Patterson, 260-726-9548.

July 6-9: Pennville Legion Lions Fair. Pennville Park. Parade Saturday at 3 p.m. Lisa Bunch, 260-729-1540.

July 10: Portland Time Trial Bicycle Race. Hudson Family Park. Hosted by AeroCat High Performance Bicycles, Portland. Starting line and registration at 9 a.m. 260-766-4098 or www.calavitzipppt.com.

July 10 and 24: Jay County Historical Museum Open House. No admission charge. 1-4 p.m. 260-726-7168.

July 11-15: 39th Vintage Motor Bike Show. Jay County Fairgrounds. Admission charge. Rick Gabbard, 765-584-4047.

July 16: Hollowblock Monster 10th Annual Benefit Car Show. Tri-State Engine Grounds. Registration: 9-11 a.m. Show: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Awards at 3 p.m. Entertainment following show with Blair Carmen at Portland Moose Lodge, 6-9 p.m. Duane Harter, 260-726-4150.

July 17: Bluegrass Jamboree. Limberlost Historic Site, Geneva. Musicians gather to play a variety of bluegrass, gospel and folk music. Admission free. 260-368-7428.

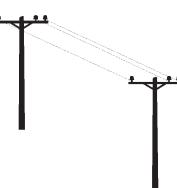
July 19: Jay County Historical Society Monthly Program. Historical Society. Picnic, 6:30 p.m. Admission free. 260-726-7168.

July 22: Jay County Lions Marching Band Contest. Jay County Fairgrounds.

July 23-29: Jay County 4-H Fair. Jay County Fairgrounds 4-H buildings.

July 25-30: Jay County Fair. Jay County Fairgrounds. Midway rides, demolition derbies, truck and tractor pull. Nationally known entertainment. Admission charge. 888-282-2728 or www.jaycountypfair.com.

July 26: Indiana Sired Fair Circuit Harness Races. Jay County Fairgrounds. Post time 11 a.m. Free admission. Jane, 260-726-4331.



July 28: RFD TV's "The Penny Gilley Show with Jeff Brandt." Bearcreek Farms. 2 and 7:30 p.m. 260-997-6822.

July 29: Grand Ole Opry star Jim Ed Brown. Bearcreek Farms. 2 and 7:30 p.m. 260-997-6822.

July 29-31: World Baseball Congress Championship. Semi-pro baseball competition. Runkle Miller Field at Jay County High School and South Adams High School. Randy Miller, 260-368-7311; Victor Canales, 260-701-1400; or www.portlandrockets.com.

July 30: Jimmy Fortune from the Statler Brothers. Bearcreek Farms. 2 and 7:30 p.m. 260-997-6822.

July 31: Marching Patriots Ice Cream Social. Jay County High School Football Stadium and Commons. Ice cream, 5-6:30 p.m. State Fair performance at 7 p.m. Tickets sold at the door for ice cream social. Kelly Smeltzer, 726-9306, or ksmeltzer@jayschools.k12.in.us.

July 31: 7th Annual Dunkirk Community Social. Dunkirk City Park. 765-768-6872.

July 31-Aug. 4: Summer NCGLNAC Cultural Arts Classes. Women's Building at Jay County Fairgrounds. For ages 12 and up. Registration due by July 22. Kay Neumayr, 765-426-3022.

Month of July: School Supplies For Kids. Sponsored by Bearcreek Farms. Donate all kinds of school supplies for area kids in need for the fall school year. 260-997-6822

Courtesy of Art Association of Randolph County and Winchester Chamber

July 9: Union City, Indiana and Ohio, Farmer's Market. Under the portico at The Depot. Starting July 9. Saturdays to end of season. 765-964-7227.

July 14: Opening Reception and Gallery Talk for Allen Conrad. The Depot. Light refreshments. Free. 7 p.m.

July 16: Artist Workshop—Mixed Media. The Depot. Featuring artist Selena Burk. Pre-registration requested. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Beginner to advanced artists welcome. 765-964-7227.

July 29-30: Summertime Photography Show. The Depot. Drop off photographs on Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Saturday, 10-noon. 765-964-7227.

Courtesy of Berne Chamber and Tourism

July 28, 29 and 30: Berne Swiss Days. Downtown Berne. Activities — Bake-a-Way, dog show, antique car show and tractor and engine display. 260-589-8007.



Little changes add up to big savings!
Find out how at togetherwesave.com.

\$50 monthly bill credit drawing

NAME: _____

ACCOUNT NO.: _____

PHONE NO.: _____

\$50

Note: To be eligible for the drawing, your coupon and payment must be in the office by 4:30 p.m. on the last working day of the month.