

Fun Times at YouthPower Energy Camp p. 3

Pay•As•You•Go Pre-Pay Program in Testing Phase

Our Pay•As•You•Go pre-payment program is in the testing phase as we prepare to introduce it later this summer.

Three VVEC employees are currently allowing the co-op to use their VVEC accounts as guinea pigs for the new program.

The test began the first week of June and will continue through the summer.

“We are making sure these employees are getting notices of their account balances, and that the software program, iVUE, is reflecting their payments. We are also making sure the correct balance is being shown and that the actual pre-pay balance is correct at billing time,” says Clyde Willard, VVEC director of finance.

He adds there haven’t been any problems or glitches.

Work has begun on the installation of a payment kiosk in the co-op’s front entrance. A hole has been cut in the brickwork between the first set of doors and the lobby entrance. Once the kiosk is installed, later this summer, members will be able to pay their electric bills using cash, checks or credit cards. The front doors will remain unlocked 24 hours a day, seven days a week. However, the second set of doors opening into the lobby, will be locked after business hours.

Plans call for other payments kiosks to be placed in Owasso, Skiatook, Nowata, Bartlesville, and Claremore. Those locations will be featured in upcoming issues of PowerCircuit.

How Pay As You Go Works

The pre-pay program allows members to pay for their electricity before it’s used, or ‘up front.’

“Through this program, you will pre-pay a certain amount for electricity, and then we will let you know via text message and/or phone call when you are almost out of credit,” explains Willard. “You can also check your balance online.”

Payments can be made over the telephone, online, in our office, or at one of the kiosks.

“If payment is not made, then your electric can be shut off when your account reaches zero, similar to a car stopping when it runs out of gas,” he explains.

More information about the Pay•As•You•Go program, kick-off date, and payment kiosk locations will be included in future issues of PowerCircuit.

Energy Savings

Members who pre-pay generally use less energy than do members on traditional billing arrangements because they are more aware of how much electricity they are consuming.

Studies show consumers enrolled in pre-pay programs practice better energy use habits and enjoy lower energy costs than the average rate payer.

Members will be able to go online to view graphs that provide details about their electric use. Often, this reveals high usage patterns that can be corrected to save money.



It’s not very attractive right now, but this gaping hole in the building’s front entryway will house the Pay•As•You•Go payment kiosk. It is scheduled to be installed sometime this summer.

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WVEC offices will be closed Thursday, July 4 in celebration of Independence Day. Please call 918-371-2584 or 1-800-870-5948 to report an outage.

Summer Residential Rates

April through September usage,
May through October billing

Customer Charge \$20.20

Energy Charge

1st 2,000 kWh \$0.0809/kWh
Over 2,000 kWh \$0.0860/kWh

A power cost adjustment (PCA) will be applied to all bills when the actual cost of power purchased exceeds or is less than 55.993 mills per kWh.

In addition, a gross receipts tax of 2% of revenue will be included, plus additional taxes if applicable.

Don't Like Cold Showers? Clean Your Water Heater

If your hot showers turn cold too quickly, the culprit could be dirt and grime.



A shower head can get clogged with soap over time, so it's a good idea to give it a good scrubbing on a regular basis. Likewise, plumbing pipes and your water heater can collect rust, sediment and debris, so having a plumber flush them out every now and then could make your hot water supply more reliable.

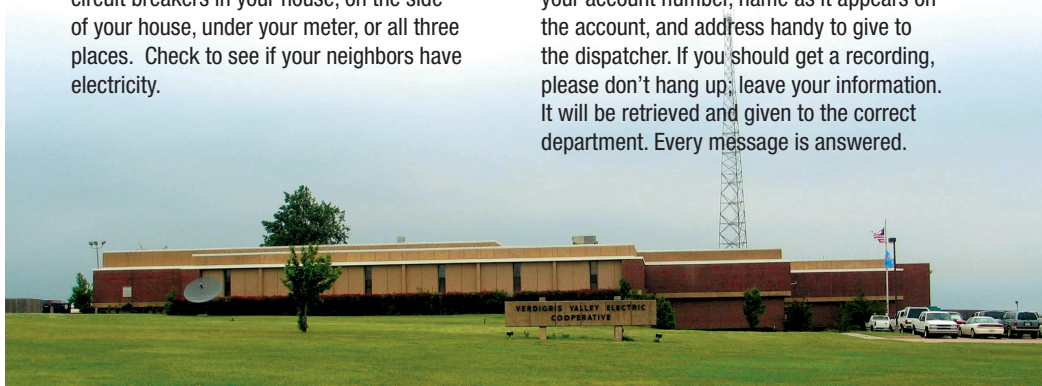
If your older water heater is rusted or eroding, sediment can settle in it and can clog pipes. A clogged pipe can reduce the flow of water, so not enough hot water gets to you while you're showering.

Like any "machine" with operating parts, your plumbing system and water heater need regular maintenance. Sometimes, a plumber can clean out your system and solve the problem, but for older systems, the best bet often is to replace the water

heater with a newer, cleaner, more energy-efficient model.

What to do if Your Power Goes Off

1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers. Every service is different. You may have fuses or circuit breakers in your house, on the side of your house, under your meter, or all three places. Check to see if your neighbors have electricity.
2. Call the Co-op at 371-2584, or 1-800-870-5948 if the call is long distance for you. Have your account number, name as it appears on the account, and address handy to give to the dispatcher. If you should get a recording, please don't hang up; leave your information. It will be retrieved and given to the correct department. Every message is answered.



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Fun Times!

Three Owasso 8th Graders Learn about Co-ops and Electricity, While Having Fun at YouthPower Energy Camp

Noah Johnston, Victor Zavala, and Bryant Hall, all of Owasso, recently returned from the 2013 Rural Electric YouthPower Energy Camp, where they served as delegates from VVEC.

They were among 89 outstanding 8th graders chosen from across the state to represent their local rural electric cooperatives during the four days at Canyon Camp, just east of Hinton.

They agree the camp was both fun and educational.

“In my opinion, the most exciting part of the trip was the high voltage demo of electricity,” says Hall. Zavala enjoyed the ‘No Brain Olympics,’ while Johnston enjoyed the end-of-camp dance and pizza party.

Other highlights for the Owasso trio were the ropes course, being taken up in a bucket of a co-op utility truck, and swimming.

While at camp, the delegates attended sessions on energy, electrical safety and rural electric careers. They formed their own Coke & Candy Cooperative, along with electing a co-op manager, and board of trustees.

Activities included hands-on electrical demonstrations, such as pole-climbing and the bucket truck rides from lineman, the 13 low-element ropes course, swimming, an energy battle tournament and a trip to Celebration Station for video games and go-carts.

YouthPower Energy Camp is coordinated by the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives and VVEC.

Bryant Hall (top photo) dons lineman’s hooks and learns climbing a utility pole isn’t as easy as it looks.

VVEC’s delegates to YouthPower Energy Camp are (left to right) Hall, Victor Zavala and Noah Johnston. They wrote the winning essays in VVEC’s annual Energy Camp competition.



It's Extra-Important for Seniors to Keep Cool

The older we get, the more careful we need to be on the hottest days of summer.

Even when kids and younger adults seem unfazed by a sweltering August afternoon, the heat can knock older folks right off their feet. Common health problems among seniors, including poor circulation, inefficient sweat glands, heart, lung or kidney diseases, and high blood pressure, can affect how an older person's body deals with heat.

In addition, people on multiple medicines, or who take diuretics or sedatives, may not be able to sweat. And some seniors don't feel hot on days when everyone else is sweating, so they may wear too many clothes without realizing the danger.

Seniors can follow a few summertime strategies for keeping cool:

- If you don't have air conditioning, ask a family member or friend to drop you off for the day at a shopping mall, a library or a nearby senior center, where it's air conditioned. Many senior centers provide transportation.

- Ask your doctor if any of your medications interfere with your ability to cool your body down when it's hot.

- Dress in light, cotton clothes instead of synthetics when the temperature climbs.

- Drink plenty of cool water during the day, even if you don't feel thirsty. Avoid alcohol and caffeine; they can dehydrate the body.

- Listen to the weather reports. Stay indoors or go someplace cool when the forecast calls for heat, humidity or high air pollution.

- Ask a relative or a neighbor to check in with you every day during the summer, just in case you need some help if the weather gets the better of you.

Working with large appliances:

If your air conditioner goes out, keep a few things in mind before you start poking around. Large appliances, such as air conditioners, are responsible for almost 20 percent of consumer-product electrocutions each year.

- Understand your electrical system — know which fuse or circuit breaker controls each switch, light, and outlet.

- Make sure circuits are turned off before starting work and take measures to ensure they're not turned back on while working.

- Use a circuit tester—always test before you touch.



RECIPE

Summer Fruit Salad

- 1 29-oz. can peach slices, undrained**
- 1 20-oz. can pineapple chunks, undrained**
- 1 3&1/8-oz. box dry vanilla instant pudding mix**
- 1 lb. strawberries, stemmed & quartered**
- 1 banana, sliced**
- 1/2 pint blueberries**
- 1 bunch grapes (your choice what flavor)**
- 1 - 2 Tbsp. sugar (optional)**

In a large mixing bowl combine peaches, pineapples, and vanilla pudding mix, and mix until pudding is dissolved. Stir in strawberries, banana, blueberries, grapes, and sugar if desired.

Chill.