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NOVEMBER 2014

Published for the members of Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative
A Supplement to Oklahoma Living.

[Holiday Shopping Begins with Your Co-op Connections® Card p. 3](#)

Members to Select Trustees at November Meetings

The privilege and responsibility of co-op ownership is evident each year when members choose their representatives on the co-op's board of trustees. Members in districts 1, 3, and 5 will meet this year.

Registration for all meetings will be from 6 to 7 p.m., when the business sessions begin.

Members who are the voting delegates for organizations such as churches, will need to submit a completed organization certificate (right.) The certificate needs to be submitted at the time of registration.

If you don't know what district you live in, you can call our office at 918-371-2584 and speak with a consumer services rep, or visit our Web site at www.vvec.com. Click on the 'About VVEC' tab, then select 'Board of Trustees & District Map.'

You will also receive a notice by mail with details of your district's meeting.

Members in **District 1** meet **Friday, Nov. 14 at Hillside Christian Church, located at 1348 W. Davis Dr. in Nowata.**

District 3 members meet **Thursday, Nov. 6 at Hilldale Baptist Church, 21085 S. Keetonville Rd., Claremore.**

And members in **District 5** will gather **Friday, Nov. 7 at Justus-Tiawah's north campus, at 14902 E. School Rd., Claremore.**

Organization Certificate

RESOLVED THAT _____
(Person's name typed or written in ink)

who is a member or officer of said organization, is hereby designated official

representative by _____
(Name of Organization)

to vote at the District Meeting of Members of which said organization holds a Membership in the Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., to be held during November 2014 for Districts 1, 3 and 5, on all matters which at said meeting of Members may properly come before them; the action of said representative and all that he or she may do in this behalf is hereby ratified and confirmed as the act of

(Name of Organization)

(President)

(Corporate Seal)

ATTEST: _____
(Secretary)

Complete this form and present it when registering attendance at district meeting.

VVEC Board of Trustees

- District 1 - **Jim Brackett, 720-4531**
- District 2 - **Jack Bogart, 371-9587**
- District 3 - **Vernon Lewis, 341-5225**
- District 4 - **John Hibdon, 847-2320**
- District 5 - **Jimmy Lambert, 760-7029**
- District 6 - **Dennis Lenox, 289-5961**
- District 7 - **Charles Huerter, 333-3107**
- District 8 - **Ken Howard, 724-9965**
- District 9 - **Buddy McCarty, 272-5134 or 272-5364**

General Manager - Alice Houston

VVEC Headquarters

8901 E. 146th Street N., Collinsville

Mailing address

P.O. Box 219, Collinsville, OK 74021

Phone number

(918) 371-2584 or 1-800-870-5948

Office hours

7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.,
Monday through Friday

Editor - Kay Rabbitt-Brower

VVEC offices will be closed Nov. 27 and 28 for Thanksgiving. Please call 918-371-2584 or 1-800-870-5948 to report an outage.

Winter Residential Rates

October through March usage,
November through April billing

Customer Charge \$25.00

Energy Charge

1st 1,000 kWh \$0.0738/kWh
Over 1,000 kWh \$0.0678/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.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Replace Windows Before Winter Weather Sneaks Indoors

If you turned the heat on a little bit earlier this fall and it wasn't because of unseasonably cool temperatures, your windows are probably at fault.

If you're dreading the high utility bills that start coming in once the mercury drops, blame your windows.

Windows cover up holes in your home's walls. If yours are made from just a single pane of glass, they're not going to keep winter outside.

Before it gets too awfully cold, consider replacing your energy-inefficient, older-model windows with new, double-pane versions that will work twice as hard to keep the cold weather from sneaking into your house.

A few tips as you shop for new windows:

- Choose windows with Low-E

glass. The special coating helps reflect some of the interior heat back into the home and keep cold air out. A bonus:

Some window brands don't charge extra for Low-E glass. Look for windows that offer the coating as a standard feature.

- Seriously, ditch your single-pane windows. The Department of Energy estimates you could save up to \$500 a year on your energy bills if you replace them with Energy Star-rated,

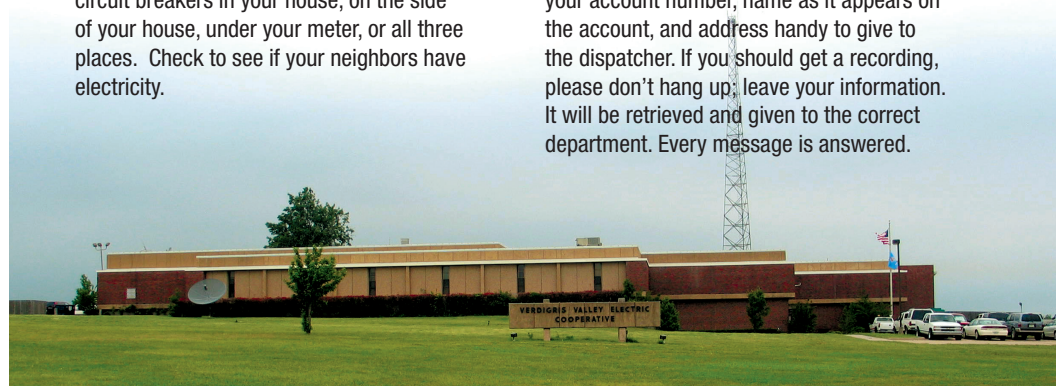
double-pane windows.

- When you get new windows, the installers will seal all around the glass and the window frames so cold air can't seep inside and warm air can't leak outdoors. Still, that caulking won't last forever. Whether your windows are new or old, caulk around them every fall.



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.



Power Circuit is published monthly by Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative, Collinsville, Oklahoma (ISSN 10884378) for its members in Tulsa, Rogers, Washington, Nowata and Osage counties. Periodical postage paid at Tulsa, Oklahoma and other additional mailing offices. Subscription price is \$0.19 per month. POSTMASTER - send address changes to Power Circuit, P.O. Box 219, Collinsville, OK 74021.

VOLUME 73 • NUMBER 11 • NOVEMBER 2014

Christmas Shopping the Co-op Way!

Save Time and Money with the Co-op Connections® Card

The year's biggest shopping season begins this month. Using your Co-op Connections® Card – a benefit of your co-op membership – can help reduce the chaos that can accompany the holidays.

The card is accepted locally and nationally, in stores and online, so using it is easy.

The card offers VVEC members product and service discounts at participating retailers. A list of local retailers and their discounts or special offers can be found on our Web site at www.vvec.com, under the Community Programs tab. Select Co-op Connections Card, and then scroll to the bottom of the page.

There are more than 65 area businesses participating.

Some of those include:

- Callie's Cache**, Collinsville
- Cheryl's Digital Keepsakes**, Bartlesville
- Dorothy's Flowers**, Claremore
- Ewing's Fine Jewelry**, Owasso
- Linger Longer Antiques & Old-Fashioned Soda Fountain**, Dewey
- The Men's Shop**, Claremore
- Trummel Drug & Gifts**, Oologah
- Waterfront Frame & Art**, Claremore
- Windel's Rock & Jewelry**, Bartlesville



- A+ Computers**, Collinsville
- Andersonville Cottage Bed & Breakfast**, Claremore
- Carpet Corner**, Claremore
- Cheri's Daylight Donuts**, Collinsville
- Gail's Hairstyling and Spa**, Bartlesville
- Mail This, Copy That!**, Owasso
- Prater's Propane**, Claremore

Prevent Decorating Mishaps: Be Careful When Climbing Ladders to Put Up Lights



One of the smartest things you can do this holiday season as you decorate your house for Christmas is ask someone to hold onto the ladder for you while you climb it.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates more than 5,000 people wind up in hospital emergency rooms every November and December after they fall off of ladders while they're hanging lights and other decorations.

Another 10,000 have other decorating-related accidents.

Keep your holidays hazard-free this year: Let someone else do the decorating.

If you're not comfortable climbing a ladder or walking on your roof—and few people are—hire someone who is. Roofers, landscapers and other professional contractors with small businesses don't have a lot of work to do around the holidays, so they might give you a deal. It only takes a couple of hours for someone like that to decorate the outside of a house, so it won't cost you nearly as much as an emergency-room bill will.

If you must do it yourself, secure your ladder on even ground or use leg levelers. Do the work during daylight. And don't even think of climbing on the roof if you've been imbibing in any holiday spirits.

It's Simple to Save Money on Water Heating

Besides heating and cooling your home, heating your water uses more energy than anything else in the house.

Here are some tips to lower that cost.

1. Get rid of your old shower heads and bathroom faucets: They pump out way more water than you need to comfortably get clean. In their place, install low-flow faucets and aerating shower heads.

2. If you notice a leaky faucet, repair it immediately. The U.S. Geological Survey estimates a faucet that drips 20 times per minute will waste a full gallon of water every day. If that happens to be hot water, you are washing money down the drain with every drip.

3. Lower the thermostat on your water heater to 120 degrees. The Department of Energy says that's a safe and sanitary temperature, and it will keep you comfort-

able at bath time, too.

4. Insulate your electric hot water tank – but don't cover the thermostat. If your tank is gas or oil-fueled, don't cover the top or bottom of the heater or its burner compartment. You might need to ask a plumber for help.

5. Drain about a quart of water from the tank every three months to remove sediment. Built-up gunk in the water heater can make it inefficient because it has to work harder to transfer heat to the water.

6. If you're in the market for a new water heater, choose a high-efficiency model with the Energy Star label. High-efficiency water heaters use 10 percent to 50 percent less energy than traditional models.

7. Water heaters last for up to 15 years, but new models are so much more

energy efficient than older ones that it's worth it to replace yours if you've had it for seven or more years.

VVEC sells 30-, 40- and 50-gallon water tanks and offers rebates on energy efficient tanks.

Electric water heaters for new construction or conversion from gas water heaters, and with an energy factor of .90 or greater, are rebated up to \$199 if purchased elsewhere, or the full price, (less taxes) if purchased from VVEC.

We also offer rebates of \$50 for 40-gallon or larger replacement units, when the old unit has less than a .90 efficiency rate, and the new unit is equal to or exceeds the .90 rating. (Replacement rebates are limited to services using 6,000 kWh or more per year.) All electric water heaters must have an Energy Star® rating.

Rebate applications need to be submitted to our Member Services department within 90 days of the purchase date to be eligible for a rebate.

RECIPE

Thanksgiving Leftovers

Turkey Salad with Cranberry Dressing



- 2 Tbsp. butter, melted
- 1/2 tsp. dried Italian seasoning
- 4 medium-size dinner rolls, cut into 2-inch cubes (about 2 cups)
- 1 (5.5-oz.) pkg. spring greens mix
- 1 small head romaine lettuce, chopped
- 2 cups coarsely chopped turkey or ham
- 1/2 cucumber, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1/2 cup canola oil
- 1/4 cup whole-berry cranberry sauce
- 2 Tbsp. Dijon mustard
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper

Preheat oven to 425°. Stir together first 2 ingredients in a bowl. Add bread cubes; toss to coat. Bake cubes in a single layer in a jelly-roll pan 3 to 5 minutes or until golden, stirring once. Cool completely on a wire rack (about 15 minutes).

Combine spring greens, next 3 ingredients, and toasted bread cubes in a serving bowl. Process vinegar and next 6 ingredients in a blender until smooth. Serve with salad.