

VVEC releases applications for 2018 Adopt-A-School and Rural Fire Department grants

As an electric cooperative, VVEC's primary objective is to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity to our members. However, we are also a concerned partner in the development of the local community. One of the ways VVEC demonstrates our concern for the community is by offering grants to schools and rural fire departments in our service territory.

Each year teachers, school administrators and fire department personnel are invited to submit an application for funds through VVEC's Adopt-A-School and Rural Fire Department grant programs. Applicants are asked to explain how they will use the funds to improve the classroom experience for students or to help protect residents' lives and property from fire damage.

"The grant has helped out classrooms quite a bit," VVEC Member Services Representative Chub Brewer says. "It allows schools to fund something that's not in their budget to enhance the students' learning experience."

Likewise, fire departments purchase tools and equipment they might not otherwise be able to afford. In turn, these purchases help improve the safety of the members of the community.

Grant applications are available on VVEC's website: www.vvec.com, under the "Community Programs" tab. Applications should be sent to program coordinator Misti Frazier at P.O. Box 219, Collinsville, OK 74021. This year's application dead-



The Collinsville Rural Fire Protection District was one of 11 fire departments to receive a Rural Fire Department grant from VVEC in 2016 and 2017. Jim Wilson (middle) and Dustin Ray (right) receive the grant from VVEC's Chub Brewer (left). Photo by Misti Frazier

line is Friday, April 27 at 4 p.m.

Anyone with questions or those who need an application mailed to them can contact Frazier by calling 918-371-2584, ext. 6226 or by emailing her at mfrazier@vvec.com.

Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

"It's a great program. We're able to help and give back to the community. That's what we try to do," Brewer says.

Apply today!

The deadline for submitting Adopt-A-School and Rural Fire Department grant applications is Friday, April 27

VVEC Board of Trustees

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Phone number
 918-371-2584 or 1-800-870-5948

Office hours
 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

Editor - Laura Araujo

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Consider insulating your hot water pipes. Doing so can reduce heat loss, allow you to lower the temperature setting and save an additional 3 to 4 percent per year on water heating.

Source: energy.gov



Follow Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative on Facebook for outage updates



Download the SmartHub app to report outages from your smartphone

Winter Residential Rates

October through March usage,
November through April billing

Customer Charge \$30.00

Energy Charge \$.07772/kWh

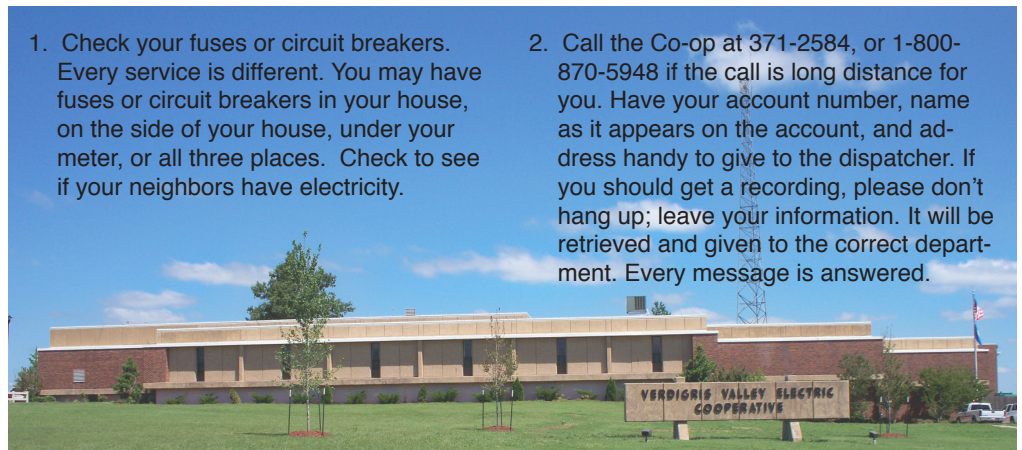
A power cost adjustment (PCA) will be applied to all bills when the actual cost of power purchased exceeds or is less than 59.87 mills per kWh.

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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 77 • NUMBER 2 • FEBRUARY 2018

VVEC shares the “cooperative difference” at the Tulsa Farm Show

All electric utilities offer the same product—electricity—but where it comes from makes a difference. Unlike for-profit utilities, electric cooperatives are owned by their members, and their end goal is serving the membership—not generating a profit. This is what is known as the “cooperative difference” and it’s the message VVEC shared during the 24th Annual Tulsa Farm Show.

The event, held each December at Tulsa’s River Spirit Expo attracts more than 30,000 attendees from Oklahoma and surrounding states. The most recent show, Dec. 7-9, 2017, featured more than 370 agriculture-related businesses and organizations. Also in attendance were five of Oklahoma’s electric cooperatives.

“We talked with anyone



VVEC member services representative Chub Brewer (right) presents Justin Picolet of Claremore with a \$100 gift card. Picolet was selected as the winner of VVEC’s prize drawing at the Tulsa Farm Show in December 2017. Photo by Misti Frazier

and everyone about electric cooperatives,” VVEC member services representative Misti Frazier says.

Each of the five cooperatives

selected one attendee to take home a \$100 gift card. Justin Picolet of Claremore was the winner of VVEC’s prize drawing. Congratulations, Justin!

Has your status changed?

If you recently tied the knot, got divorced or were widowed, please call us so we can update your account. We need up-to-date, accurate information for your capital credit account, but also to make it easy for you to conduct business with us. Federal legislation enacted after Sept. 11, 2001, prevents us from discussing an account with anyone not listed on it. If you have been widowed, your account will be placed in your name, but we need you to update your application. If your parents or another family member were VVEC members and have passed away, we need to be aware of that because we cannot have an account in the name of a deceased person. We will be glad to work with you on updating your account. Please call our consumer service representatives at 918-371-2584.

Eliminate fluctuating electric bills with the AMP Plan

If your electric bill fluctuates from month to month, you might want to try the Average Monthly Payment Plan. The AMP Plan is available to VVEC members who meet all the following criteria:

- Have been a VVEC member for at least 12 months;
- Have not been late in paying the electric bill more than twice

during the previous 12 months;

- The electric bill is currently paid in full.

Your average monthly payment is figured by taking your current month's usage plus the preceding 11 months' usage and dividing them by 12. This total is then figured into the applicable rate along with any taxes and plus or minus one-

twelfth of your balance forward.

The average is recalculated every month in the same manner.

If you are interested in participating in the AMP Plan or have any questions, please call our Consumer Services Department at 918-371-2584, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

RECIPE

Romance Cake

Yields a 9-by-13-inch cake

For the shortbread:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup margarine
- 2 tablespoons sugar

For the filling:

- 1 1/4 cups brown sugar
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup chopped walnuts
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 cup flaked coconut
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

For the icing:

- 4 tablespoons margarine
- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 tablespoons cream or milk

Preheat the oven to 350°F. For the shortbread, mix ingredients in a medium bowl, like pie dough, and press firmly into a 9-by-13-inch baking dish. Bake for 20 minutes.

For the filling, combine ingredients in a large bowl and pour over cooked shortbread. Bake for 20 minutes. Cool completely.

Combine the icing ingredients in a medium bowl and beat until smooth. Spread over the cooled cake.

Reminder!

2018 Youth Tour and Energy Camp essays are due **Friday, February 9** by 4 p.m.

Youth Tour applicants who opt to take the test should contact Misti Frazier to schedule a time for it to be administered. Frazier can be reached at 918-371-2584, extension 6226 or at mfrazier@vvec.com.

Youth Tour and Energy Camp application forms are available at vvec.com by clicking on the "Community Programs" tab.