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Local fire departments win grants

VVEC supports rural first responders through annual grant program



More than a utility provider, VVEC is a concerned community partner. That's why VVEC provides financial assistance to local first responders through our annual Rural Fire Department grant program.

Grant funds help departments purchase equipment such as fire trucks, hoses, and firefighter gear that help make our communities safer places for us all to live.

This year, VVEC received 13 Rural Fire Department grant applications and awarded 10 grants. Congratulations to this year's winners!

For more information on the Rural Fire Department grant program, visit <http://vvec.com/content/rural-fire-department-grant-program>. ■

2020 Grant Winners

- Avant Volunteer FD
- Barnsdall Rural FD
- Boulanger Rural FD
- Collinsville Rural Fire
- Country Corner Fire
- Lenapah FD
- Owens & Co. FD
- Pershing Volunteer Fire
- Sperry FD
- Wynona Volunteer FD



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Ken Howard, 724-9965

District 9

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COVID-19 UPDATE

VVEC lobby re-opens for business

Members encouraged to conduct business online or over the phone whenever possible



As we continue to adjust our daily business operations around the COVID-19 pandemic, VVEC has the health and well-being in mind for both members and employees. We are re-opening our offices in stages in reverse order to the way we closed them. We have brought all of our employees back to the office and re-opened our warehouse to membership sales. We have also re-opened our lobby to in-person payments and other business. However, we have not opened our individual member service representatives' offices to mem-

bers, so we are still taking applications for new services and billing inquires through the glass at the counter. We have set up barriers and signage directing members to the entrance and exits, as well as markings on the floor encouraging physical distancing. We are still asking our members to take care of any business you can online or on the phone to keep the lobby traffic to a manageable level. We will continue monitoring the situation and make changes as necessary, hopefully working toward the day that all of our normal business activities can resume. ■



VVEC returns \$500,000 in capital credits

Eligible co-op members to receive credit on electric bills

There are benefits to being a member-owner of a cooperative. One of those is receiving capital credit refunds. Your board of trustees has recently approved returning \$500,000 in capital credits to VVEC members. The amount will appear as a credit on your October electric bill.

Capital credits are one of the benefits of cooperative ownership and are unique to the cooperative form of business. According to the co-op's auditing firm, Briscoe, Burke & Grigsby, one dollar in five of the co-op's equity has been returned to members in the form of capital credit retirements.

VVEC Director of Finance Clyde Willard says this year's retirement will be approximately \$500,000 and will be paid to members receiving electricity from the co-op in 1983 and 2019. Refund amounts will be based on the dollar amount billed to each member in 1983 and 2019 for electric usage.

As in the past, the credit will be identified as a "patronage refund" and will be subtracted from the total amount due on your October bill.

According to Willard, members with multiple accounts will receive one credit on their membership account. That one credit will reflect the total accumulated capital credit refund from all of their accounts. Willard says this is the 27th consecutive year capital credits have been returned, adding that \$18,093,489 has been returned since VVEC was founded.

Former VVEC members will be sent a check for their refund if it is \$5 or more. Lesser amounts

will be held in each individual's capital credit account until it reaches the \$5 minimum.

If you have questions about your capital credit refund, please call one of our consumer representatives at 918-371-2584 or 1-800-870-5948 between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. ■

How do capital credits work?

VVEC tracks how much electricity you buy and how much money you pay for it throughout the year.

At the end of the year, VVEC completes financial matters and determines whether there are excess revenues, called margins.

VVEC allocates the margins to members as capital credits based upon their use of electricity during the year.

When the co-op's financial condition permits, the board of trustees decides to retire—or pay—the capital credits.

VVEC notifies you of how and when you'll receive your capital credits retirements.

IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE

• First, 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.

• Then, call the Co-op at 371-2584, or 1-800-870-5948. 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, leave your information; every message will be answered. Or, download the SmartHub app to report outages from your smartphone.

SUMMER RESIDENTIAL RATES

April through September usage, May through October billing

Customer Charge | \$30.00
Energy Charge

1st 2,000 kWh | \$.08272/kWh
Over 2,000 kWh | \$.08782/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% of revenue will be included, plus additional taxes if applicable.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer.

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.

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EASY STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE

SERVES 5 TO 8

For the shortcakes:

- 1 can (5-8) flaky buttermilk biscuits
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar

For the strawberry mixture:

- 3 cups fresh strawberries, hulled and sliced
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar

For the whipped cream:

- 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 375°F. Separate biscuits. Dip tops and sides of biscuits in melted butter. Dip biscuits, covering tops and sides, in sugar. Place sugar-side up on ungreased baking sheet. Bake 13 to 17 minutes, or until golden brown.

To make strawberry mixture: In medium bowl, mix strawberries and sugar. Set aside.

To make whipped cream: In small bowl, beat whipping cream and sugar until soft peaks form. Add vanilla and beat into mixture.

On plate, split biscuits and put dollop of whipped cream mixture on bottom half of biscuit. Add strawberry mixture. Replace biscuit top and dollop with whipping cream.

Recipe courtesy of Pillsbury.

OKIE EATS



Spending more time at home?

Try an online energy audit to assess the overall efficiency of your home. Visit www.energystar.gov, then enter “home energy yardstick” in the search box to get started.



Easy Strawberry Shortcake. Photo courtesy of Pillsbury