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April is Lineman Appreciation Month!
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Laura Araujo

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LINEMAN APPRECIATION



Thank you, linemen!

Each April, we take time to thank our extraordinary linemen who dedicate their lives to keeping the lights on in our local communities. Verdigris Valley's 38 linemen maintain more than 4,600 miles of line in our co-op's service territory, and without them, our world would be dark.

We depend on our entire staff to keep VVEC running smoothly, but on April 12th, National Lineman Appreciation Day, we honor the linemen who often find themselves in dangerous and challenging situations, so our lives may be a little bit brighter and safer every day. These men repair damaged lines and maintain critical infrastructure for our communities. Without their hard work and commitment to the job, our co-op would not thrive.

No matter the time—day or night, weekday or weekend—if the lights go out, so do they. Perhaps you have seen them raising their bucket trucks in howling winds and torrential rains, or in freezing, icy conditions. They work around the clock near high-voltage power lines until electricity is restored to every member in our co-op community.

In addition to aiding members in our local service territory, linemen are always willing and eager to volunteer when a neighboring community, county or state is in need after a major outage occurs.

Our linemen are brave, committed and critical to our success. We hope you will join us in thanking the many lineworkers—both locally and around the world—who light our lives. Remember, your power works because they do! ■



AVERAGE MONTHLY PAYMENT PLAN

VVEC's Average Monthly Payment plan helps reduce bill fluctuation

At VVEC we have a plan for our budget-minded members. Although it is not truly budget billing, our Average Monthly Payment (AMP) plan is a way to keep your monthly bills from having dramatic swings from events like February's record cold spell.

The AMP plan will take your current usage, add it to your past 11 months' usage and divide by 12, giving you an average bill for the past year's usage. This way, events like the February cold or an extremely hot July or August get absorbed into an average and spread out over the next 12 months. The bills do fluctuate monthly as the old month drops off and the new one is added to the average. However, the changes will not be as drastic as they could be when we do have an unusual weather period.

For members looking for a way to know from month to month the approximate amount of their monthly bill, the AMP plan may be worth looking into. The AMP plan is voluntary. You need at least 12 months of billing history with VVEC and your account must be in good standing to apply. (Note: When service is terminated the final bill will be adjusted to "true up" your kWh usage to get an accurate final payment.)

If you are interested in participating in the AMP plan or have any questions, please call our billing department at 918-371-2584. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



OFFICE CLOSED NOTICE

VVEC's office will be closed on Friday, April 2nd, in observance of Good Friday.

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.

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% of revenue will be included, plus additional taxes if applicable.

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Photo and recipe courtesy of familyfeatures.com

Cheesy Bacon-Broccoli Quiche

Serves 6

Ingredients:

- 10-ounce package frozen broccoli with cheese sauce
- 3 slices bacon, chopped
- 1/2 cup white mushrooms, sliced
- 1/2 cup green onions, chopped
- 9-inch frozen prepared pie shell
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Instructions:

Preheat the oven to 350°F. In the microwave, prepare broccoli and cheese sauce according to package directions; set aside to cool slightly. In a nonstick skillet over medium heat, cook bacon, mushrooms and green onions until bacon is cooked through and mushrooms are tender. Scatter bacon mixture in bottom of pie shell; place pie shell on a baking sheet.

In a medium bowl, whisk eggs and milk; stir in broccoli and cheese sauce and shredded cheddar cheese. Pour custard into pie shell and bake 35-45 minutes, or until center is just set and knife blade comes out clean when inserted into center of quiche. Let cool at least 10 minutes before cutting into wedges and serving.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140 degrees, but most households usually only require them to be set at 120 degrees.

Consider lowering your water heater's temperature to save energy and slow mineral buildup in the heater and pipes.

Source: www.energy.gov

