

**INSIDE THIS EDITION****2** | Line Worker Training & Paperless Billing**3** | Recipe & Energy Tip**4** | Bill Payment Options

VVEC cashiers Inez Wright (left) and Suzi McClain (right) are the first to greet members stopping in to do business at the co-op.

**On the way to normal**

VVEC lobby re-opened April 19th for face-to-face business

By Randy Riddle

It seems like so long ago that we were able to conduct business face-to-face here at VVEC. The pandemic hit the U.S. in early spring of 2020. We closed our lobby and warehouse to the public on March 23rd. We began limiting and rotating our workforce on April 1st to allow for distancing in the office. In June we thought (and hoped) we were seeing a light at the end of the tunnel so we opened the lobby back up, still limiting access to most areas. In December, all that changed as COVID-19 numbers and hospitalizations began to increase; we once again closed the lobby to the public.

Now, over 15 months after the first cases of COVID-19 were verified in the U.S., with vaccinations plentiful and cases continuing to fall, we have opened our lobby and facilities back up to regular business, hopefully for good this time.

We all yearn for the time when we could run in to the store without searching for a mask, when we could pick up fast food or even sit down in a restaurant to get a bite without waiting in the car until the food or a table is ready, or when we could stop by VVEC to pay a bill or set up a service and be able to visit face-to-face with an employee.

We will continue to monitor the current state of the pandemic and make changes as necessary. We are still requiring that anyone who is sick not enter the building—member or employee. Anyone who feels more comfortable wearing a mask is encouraged to do so.

Hopefully the time for normal is not far off for the U.S. and Oklahoma, and for VVEC it is here. ■



FOLLOW VVEC ON FACEBOOK



REPORT OUTAGES ON SMARTHUB

## VVEC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### District 1

Jim Brackett, 720-4531

### District 2

Jack Bogart, 371-9587

### District 3

Vernon Lewis, 521-5461

### District 4

John Hibdon, 847-2320

### District 5

Jimmy Lambert, 760-7029

### District 6

Dennis Lenox, 289-5961

### District 7

Charles Huerter, 914-1498

### District 8

Ken Howard, 724-9965

### District 9

Buddy McCarty, 272-5134  
or 272-5364

## CONTACT US

### General Manager

Alice Lawson

### 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., Mon.-Fri.

### Power Circuit Editor

Laura Araujo

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.

## LINE WORKER TRAINING & PAPERLESS BILLING

### Line worker training improves operations response time

In April, VVEC line workers participated in a substation training at the Elm Creek Substation, east of Owasso. KAMO Power, VVEC's wholesale power supplier, trained linemen on substation and transmission switching. This will enable VVEC employees to assist KAMO during outages to speed up power restoration efforts. The training takes place every three years.

VVEC's commitment to ongoing training for our employees, members and co-op leadership is part of what sets our business model apart. One of our seven guiding principles, known as the Cooperative Principles is a commitment to Education, Training and Information. ■



VVEC linemen learn about substation and transmission switching

### Paperless billing available through SmartHub

You can sign up for paperless billing by logging in or creating a new account using SmartHub. Members with a smartphone or tablet device can download the free SmartHub app from their app store (search "NISC SmartHub"). SmartHub is also available on [www.vvec.com](http://www.vvec.com). Use the login links at the top-center of the links.

Once logged in to Smart Hub, you will be prompted to turn off paper bills. Simply click on "yes" and submit. You will no longer receive a paper bill but will be able to view your bill using SmartHub. If you change your mind and want to start receiving a paper bill again, you are able to make the change via SmartHub. Simply go to "My Profile," "My Information" and then "Update My Printed Bill Settings." Then click on "Turn On Printed Bills."

SmartHub provides you instant access to your

electric account, customer service and outage reporting. Users can choose to receive an email or text for VVEC notifications, such as when a payment is due or when a service interruption is scheduled.

SmartHub allows members to make payments right from their smartphone or tablet for FREE.

Smart Hub is also an information hub delivering personal electric usage data directly to you, safely and securely. ■

Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera. This will link to the app store where you can download the free SmartHub app.



## RECIPE & ENERGY TIP



### Fluffy Chocolate Mousse | Serves 8

- 8 ounces bittersweet chocolate, chopped
- 40 large marshmallows
- 2 1/4 cups heavy cream, divided

In large bowl, combine chopped chocolate, marshmallows and 1/2 cup heavy cream. Microwave 2 minutes on high, or until marshmallows are melted. Let mixture cool 1 hour. Using mixer, whip 1 3/4 cups heavy cream until soft peaks form. Reserve and refrigerate 1/2 cup whipped cream for topping. To cooled chocolate mixture, fold in 2 cups whipped cream until combined. Add remaining whipped cream and mix until combined. Spoon mousse into individual serving dishes. Refrigerate at least 2 hours. To serve, top with 1/2 cup reserved whipped cream and sprinkle with shaved chocolate, if desired.

*Recipe and photo courtesy of culinary.net.*

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

A dirty filter causes your air conditioner to work harder than necessary.

Remember to change your air filter every month (or every two months) to prevent dust buildup, which can lead to even bigger problems.

Source:  
[www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)



### OFFICE CLOSED NOTICE

VVEC's office will be closed on Monday, July 5th, in observance of Independence Day.

### 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.*

**VOLUME 80 | NUMBER 6  
JUNE 2021**



VVEC's headquarters in Collinsville, Oklahoma

### Multiple options simplify bill payment

#### ✓ Pay online via SmartHub

Go to <https://vvec.smarthub.coop> to login and pay your account (free of charge).

#### ✓ Pay in person

Cash, check and credit card payments can be made inside the VVEC office from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. The office is located at 8901 E. 146th Street North, Collinsville. A night deposit, located to the left of the office's front doors, is available for payments made after 4 p.m. and on weekends.

#### ✓ Pay over the phone

Call 866-780-5458 and select option 4. You can make a secure payment using your Visa or MasterCard, or debit card. U.S. Payments charges a convenience fee of at least \$3.95 per credit/debit card transaction, and a \$2 fee for each electronic check transaction.

#### ✓ Pay via automatic funds transfer

Have your electric bill payment automatically deducted from your bank account or charged to your credit card at the same time each month. This program is free of charge. Contact a consumer services representative at 918-371-2584 for more information.

#### ✓ Pay at a PaySite™ Kiosk

A number of kiosks are located throughout VVEC's service territory. A kiosk in the lobby of the VVEC headquarters in Collinsville is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (no charge).

Costs affiliated with using the other kiosks range from \$2, if paying by cash or check, to \$3.95 per \$400 increment if paying by credit card. You will need your VVEC account number with you when using this payment method.

### Pay As You Go Prepaid

As an alternative to regular billing, VVEC offers Pay As You Go Prepaid. It is available to new and existing members. You do not receive a paper bill when on Prepaid, but you can review your account history such as usage, charge and credit balance by signing in to SmartHub. Prepaid allows you to pay for your electric before it's used. You can now pay in advance according to your budget or for as much as you want to use.

As a Prepaid member, you will need to pay a \$25 membership, \$25 connect fee, \$25 deposit and \$50 credit for electricity, for a total minimum of \$125 to have your service activated. Prepaid electric service requires your account to have a credit balance at all times. You will receive low balance notifications by phone, text or email.

Benefits of Pay As You Go Prepaid include: members have more control over their energy use; Prepaid members typically use less energy than those on traditional billing; Prepaid helps members learn what habits increase and decrease usage; it helps members make informed decisions on when and how much energy to use; members can monitor real-time usage by signing in to SmartHub; Prepaid eliminates the unknown energy bill at the end of the month.

For more information about VVEC's Pay As You Go Prepaid program, please contact our Consumer Service Representatives at 918-371-2584.

### PaySite™ Kiosk Locations

#### Bartlesville

- Homeland - 811 S.E. Frank Phillips Blvd.
- Homeland - 915 S. Madison Blvd.

#### Catoosa

- Reasor's - 2500 N. Hwy. 66

#### Chelsea

- Harps - 300 E. Layton/Hwy. 66

#### Claremore

- 5-Eleven - 1699 N. Lynn Riggs Blvd.
- Reasor's - 1000 W. Will Rogers Blvd.

#### Collinsville

- Mo's Corner - 1502 W. Main St.
- VVEC office - 8901 E. 146th St. N.

#### Nowata

- Homeland - 813 E. Cherokee Ave.

#### Owasso

- Reasor's - 11815 E. 86th St. N.
- Sunny's Kwik Stop - 11700 E. 86th St. N.

#### Sand Springs

- Stop N Save - 6520 Charles Page Blvd.

#### Skiatook

- Mister Bass - 4000 W. Rogers Blvd.

#### Tulsa

- Cash Saver - 11333 E. 31st St.
- Fiesta Mart - 8102 S. Sheridan Rd.
- Fiesta Mart - 8107 S. Mingo Rd.
- Fiesta Mart - 10711 E. 81st St.
- Fiesta Mart - 2738 E. 91st St.
- Joy Mart - 2112 S. Garnett Rd.
- Lucky Stop - 8106 E. 25th Pl.
- Save-A-Lot - 4229 Southwest Blvd.
- Tulsa Trip - 4948 N. Peoria
- Warehouse Market - 301 S. Lewis

Additional locations available at <http://paysitekiosklocator.com>