

**VVEC**

POWER CIRCUIT

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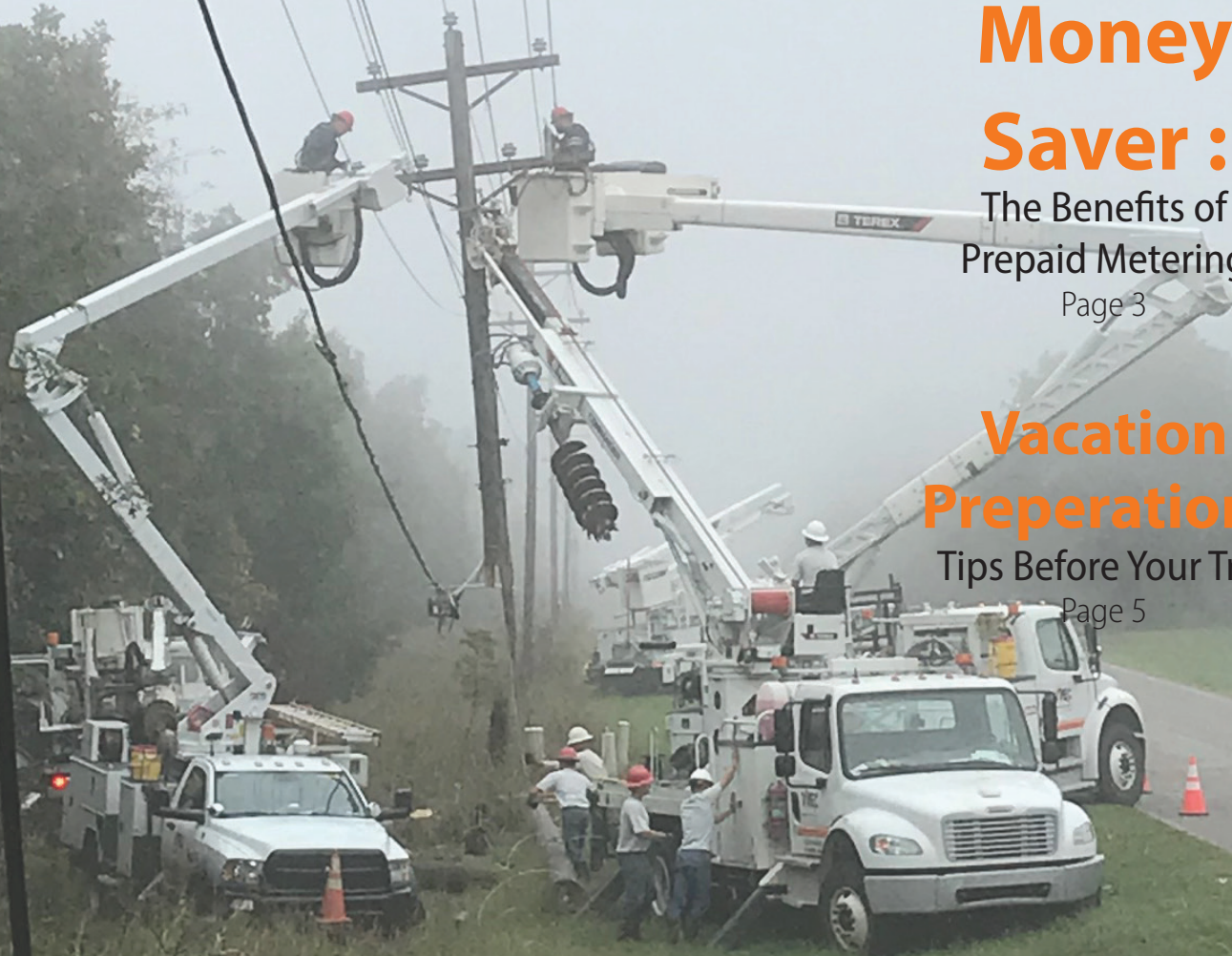
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VVEC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

General Manager: Alice Lawson

CONTACT US

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:

McKenzie Loffer

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Employee Spotlight:

A Decade of Dedication

On an average day Justin Stowers is quietly monitoring the configuration and maintaining the computer servers system for VVEC and staying informed with cyber security threats and regularly applying patches and other protective measures to prevent threats. He also maintains the telephone lines for reliability and functionality. Periodically, he also reviews and performs updates to the VVEC web page.

At any organization, the IT department is looked upon to answer questions and assist with technical issues ranging from “my computer won’t start” to “I forgot a password.” The IT department’s primary role is to serve internally so that everything runs smoothly allowing the other employees to effectively work and serve the membership.

During the pandemic, with very little notice, Justin helped prepare the cooperative employees to have the capabilities to work remotely. We often relied on Justin to help educate our employees with new methods of conducting business through microsoft teams and zoom meetings. With Justin’s help, we were able to keep up with quality work and tackle multiple technical challenges. In the ten years that Justin has been with VVEC, there have been many changes with technology and we are grateful that one thing remains the same. It is Justin’s **willingness to always assist in any way possible** and with his trademark reply of “not a problem”. Thank you Justin, now go enjoy some disc golf, camping or a video game.

You Have the Power

Prepaid Metering Allows for Money Saving

By Tom Tate

Prepaid metering is as simple as it sounds: consumers pay for electricity before it is used, then use the electricity until the credit expires. A terrific analogy for prepaid metering is putting gas in your car. Say you only have \$30 for the week to pay for gasoline. You drive down to the station, pump in \$30 and drive off. As you drive during the week, what happens? You monitor the gauge and make sure each trip is necessary. If you drive too much, you burn up your \$30 before the week is out. By checking the gauge throughout the week, you became more prudent with your gas use and made informed decisions on when and how much to use.

That's similar to how VVEC's Pay As You Go Prepaid works. The prepaid program is available to new and existing members. As a prepaid member, you pay a \$25 membership fee, a \$25 connect fee, a \$25 deposit, and a \$50 credit for electricity, for a minimum of \$125 to activate your service. Prepaid electric service requires your account to have a credit balance at all times. There are several ways to add credit to your account. (See sidebar for details.)

Instead of receiving a paper bill, prepaid users can review account history- such as usage,

charges and credit balance- by signing into SmartHub. As you approach "empty," you receive low-balance notifications through a smartphone app, email or text message. Add more money to your account and you are set for the next period.

Prepaid metering teaches the value of electricity, what uses watts in your home, and provides absolute control over how much you pay. Industry studies show that consumers who participate in prepaid metering plans use as much as 10 percent less electricity than their counterparts.

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

Tom Tate writes on cooperative issues for NRECA

Payment Options

1) Pay online via SmartHub, free of charge

2) Pay by phone through U.S. payments by calling 918-371-2584 or 800-870-5948, select option #4

3) Pay at KIOSK locations in the general area:

- Nowata: Homeland at 813 E Cherokee Ave

- Bartlesville: Homeland at 811 SE Frank Phillips Blvd or 915 S Madison Blvd.

- Skiatook: Mister Bass at 4000 W Rogers Blvd

- Owasso: Sunny's Kwik Stop at 11700 E 86th St. N

- Claremore: 5-eleven at 1699 N Lynn Riggs Blvd

- Kiosk in VVEC lobby (available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

4) Pay in VVEC office

5) Send payment via U.S. Mail



VVEC Outage Restoration

Steps That Occur After an Outage

By Randy Riddle

We have come to expect that if we lose electric service, it will be restored within a few minutes or a few hours at most. When a devastating event- a tornado, an ice storm or a snow storm - occurs and causes major damage to a co-op's system, longer outages cannot be helped. Crews work long, hard hours restoring service, but it's a task that needs to be done methodically to be done safely. Every electric cooperative follows a basic principle when it comes to restoring power. Priority goes to the lines that will get the most people back in service the quickest. This usually begins with the main lines from the substations that can affect 200 to 1000 members, and continues out to tap lines which may affect 30 to 200 members, and then to individual service lines affecting just one to five members.

VVEC's steps for restoring outages are as follows:

Step 1: All repairs start with the main line.

The substation is energized but a main distribution line is damaged near the substation, leaving most members without power. All repairs start with the main line. A large number of members will have power restored once the main line is fixed. All other repairs would be pointless if this line is not restored first.

Step 2: With the main line restored, the line crew can isolate other damage.

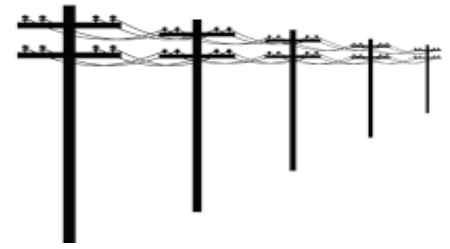
With the main line restored, the crew can begin to prioritize repairs. Though some repairs may be closer, fixing the line that serves a subdivision down the road will get electric restored to a larger number of consumers more quickly.

Step 3: A smaller tap line is next on the list.

A smaller tap line serving a number of homes is next on the list for the line crew. This move probably doesn't make some folks too happy. They've seen crews driving by their home and working right across the road. They see lights in the homes of all their neighbors, but they don't have power. That's because even though electricity is coming to their pole (that happened with the first repair in Step 1), the service line from their pole to their meter may be damaged. Individual repairs come after all distribution and tap lines are restored.

Step 4: Take care of individual repairs last.

Only after the tap lines are repaired do crews start to work on individual service lines. Crews may have been past these homes a few times and could have stopped to restore power any time after the first main line was repaired and



electricity was flowing to the pole nearby. However, it is not fair to other members for a crew to spend hours fixing one outage, when the crew can move down the road and restore power to dozens of homes in the same amount of time.

Don't wait for someone else to report the outage because you may be the only member without power, and your report can help us determine where the problem is. The easiest way to report your outage is through the **SmartHub app**. SmartHub will save the hassle of getting caught in clogged phone lines.



If you have someone in your home who requires medical equipment, you should always have backup power or supplies. VVEC has medical alerts all over our system. If your outage is one that requires individual repairs, it could still be toward the end of the power restoration period before electricity is restored to your home.

Don't Just Pack Your Bags; Prepare Your Home for Vacation Too

Your bags are packed and you're ready to leave your humdrum routine for a much-needed vacation. As you pack for your destination, remember your home needs a little prep, too.

Along with the usual tasks such as having your mail stopped, there are other steps you can take to help deter burglars and even save you a little green. With the money you save, you might have a little extra for umbrella-garnished drinks or destination t-shirts. Before you leave, here are some ways to save money on your energy bill:

- Adjust your hot water heater. For a natural gas water heater, turn it to low or vacation mode. For an electric version, turn it down or off at the circuit breaker panel.
- Set or program your thermostat to a temperature that mimics the outside temperature (about 80 to 85 degrees). This still protects your wood floors and furniture, as well as if you have pets keeps them comfortable, but saves on energy costs.
- Do not completely turn off your air conditioning during vacation, however, so that the air in your house continues to circulate.
- Unplug small appliances and electronic devices including gaming systems so that they don't draw power. Also do not leave chargers plugged into an outlet. (This tip is important when you're home as well. Do not leave chargers plugged in when they're not in use since they can overheat. Unplug charging devices after electronics are fully charged.)
- Make sure your sump pump is working. Take these electrical and plumbing precautions:
- Turn off water valves to the dishwasher, washing machine and all sinks. Or, consider shutting off the main water valve, which cuts off water to the house but still allows water supply to an outdoor sprinkler system.

Here are some ways to keep your home look lived in and ward off burglars:

- If you have a smart home, it's easy to regulate lights in your home remotely. Turn various lights on and off intermittently or have them timed to do so.

- If you do not have smart lighting, put various lights on timers.
- Ask a trusted neighbor to park in your driveway occasionally while you are gone.
- Use motion detectors on outside lights.
- Before you leave, check all windows and doors to make sure they are locked.

And finally, remember to clean out your fridge before leaving so that you don't come home to moldy leftovers.

For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



5 EASY WAYS TO PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR Vacation

1. Set or **program your thermostat** to **85 degrees** while you are away.
2. **Unplug** small appliances and electronic devices including gaming systems so that they don't draw power.
3. **Adjust your hot water heater.** For a natural gas water heater, turn it to low. For an electric version turn it off at the circuit breaker.
4. **Shut** all your **curtains and blinds.**
5. Make sure your **sump pump is working.**

Safe Electricity.org



July Calendar of Events



7th - Owasso Gathering on Main,
Rosebud Festival Park, Owasso.
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

14th - Collinsville Outdoor
Summer Movie, Collinsville
City Plaza, begins at 9:00 PM

23rd - Oklahoma Home &
Garden Expo, Tulsa Expo
Center, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

9th - Okie Hillbilly Hand-Fish-
in' Tournament, Fischer Bait &
Tackle, Nowata.

15th - Porter Peach Festival,
Downtown Porter

23rd - Indoor Flea Market,
Claremore Expo Center,

9th - Hillside Farmer's Market,
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM, 206 E 184th
St. N, Skiatook.

16th - Family Fun Day at Will
Rogers Birthplace Ranch,
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Oologah.

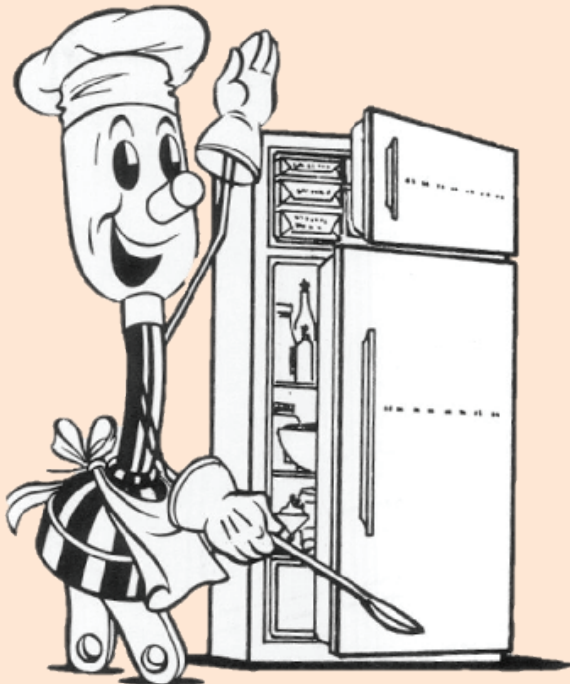
23rd - Family Fun Day,
Frank Phillips Home,
1107 SE Cherokee Ave,
Bartlesville. 10:30 AM - 3:30 PM

14th - Summerfest, Downtown
Collinsville, 6:00 PM- 9:00
PM

21st - Third Thursday in the
park, Skiatook City Park,
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Willie's Throwback Recipe

Quick Pasta Salad



Salad:

- 2 c. pasta, cooked and drained
- 1 c. frozen peas, rinsed in hot water and drained
- 2 c. frozen stir fry vegetables, rinsed in hot water and drained

Dressing:

- 3/4 c. fat-free mayonaise
- 1/4 c. fat-free Italian salad dressing

Put the salad ingredients in a serving bowl. Combine the dressing ingredients; mix well. Add to the salad. Toss until combined. Serves 6.

Submitted by: Helen Whitchurch of Bartlesville,
Published in The Servin' Spoon III

CLASSIFIEDS

SUBMIT ADS to classified@vvec.com or send to Attn: Classified, P.O. Box 219, Collinsville, OK 74021. Ads must be in writing. Your account number, name, address and a phone number is required on all ads.

The deadline for all ads is the 1st of the month. Ads submitted by the 1st of the month will run in the following month's newsletter.

Classified ads are a free service to VVEC members only. As many ads as space allows will be included in each issue. VVEC reserves the right to delete or shorten items or descriptions.

■ Gallon potted perennial peonies, white, red, pink. doubles, semi double, single and Japanese blooms. Many varieties to choose. Easy to grow with half day of sun. Thrives on neglect. Call for more info. \$25.00 a plant. Contact 918-504-6264

■ Professional personalized dog grooming at your home. Over 40 years experience. Most dogs only \$40.00. Contact 918-381-1170

■ President Kennedy Book, "The Torch Has Passed" \$15.00. Contact 918-727-0387

■ Vintage Brass Firelog Holder, \$20.00. Contact 918-727-0387

■ OKC Thunder Flag, Large outdoor. \$15.00. Contact 918-727-0387

■ Tulsa Vintage Map pendant necklace, \$15.00. 918-727-0387

■ Kendra Scott "Elisa" Pendant necklace. \$25.00, Contact 918-727-0387



■ 70"x10"x5" Interim portable electric hot water baseboard heater. Excellent condition. No plumbing required. \$50.00. Contact 918-344-6374

■ Dogloo Igloo large dog house. Excellent condition. \$150.00. Contact 918-344-6374

Qualifications to be a VVEC Trustee:



Electric cooperatives are governed by a board of trustees, who are each members of the cooperative residing in the districts they represent. They are elected to the board by members of their respective districts, at meetings held in the districts. Each trustee serves a three-year term, and the terms are staggered so three different trustee terms expire each year. Qualifications for trustees can be found in the cooperative's bylaws: Article 4, Section 4. Those qualifications are:

"Each year, there shall be elected trustees to succeed all trustees whose terms of office shall expire at the time of holding such

election. All duly elected and qualified trustees shall serve for the term of three (3) years, or until their successors are elected and qualified, subject to the provisions of these bylaws with respect to the removal of trustees. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a trustee of the cooperative who:

(a) is not a member and bona fide resident in the area served or to be served by the cooperative; or
(b) is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling

electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the cooperative; or
(c) has been convicted, pleaded guilty, or pleaded nolo contendere to a felony; or
(d) is a close relative of an incumbent trustee or of an employee of the cooperative; or
(e) is or was an employee of the cooperative during the preceding three years prior to time of filing or being nominated.

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE NO. 2

Democratic Member Control

VVEC Employees Volunteer

A Fun Time at the Special Olympic Summer Games

Three employees from VVEC attended the 2022 Special Olympic Summer State Games as volunteers. The anticipated event is held annually in Stillwater, and is a blast for athletes and spectators alike. The following employees worked as volunteers: Misti Frazier, Sylvia Hunt, and Regina Morris.

Co-op volunteers comprise one of the largest volunteer groups at the games each year. Here are some of the jobs co-op employees contribute to:

- Man Concession Stands
- Stage athletes preparing for races
- Serve as official time keepers
- Act as starters and runners during races
- Ensure all participants receive awards
- Escort wheelchair athletes to V.I.P. seating at center court
- Hug the winners and console those who did not win



Photo source:

Oklahoma Special Olympics

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.

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.
- Download the SmartHub app at www.smarthubapp.com to report outages from your smartphone.



**FIND US ON
FACEBOOK**

for outage updates & more



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