

[Dispatch Center is Vital to Co-op's Daily Operations](#) p. 3

Grants Reflect Co-op Philosophy

Improving the lives of cooperative members is the founding philosophy of VVEC.

Initially, that improvement was made by bringing electric service to the rural areas. But today, VVEC feels there are programs to enhance members' lives in addition to supplying electric service.

Two such programs are the Rural Fire Department grant program, and the Adopt-A-School program.

"Through these programs, VVEC can help area fire departments ensure the safety of our members' lives and property, and help educate our youth by partnering with area schools," says VVEC Member Services Representative Paula Lanni.

Each year, area fire departments and school systems make application for equipment and supplies. The ap-



plications are reviewed and grants are awarded each May.

Receiving grants this year are:
Avant Fire Department – radios

and communication equipment.

Boulanger Rural Fire Department – leaf blowers for fires.

Dewey Fire Department – low level strainers, fire swatters, 1-inch hose, and Smokehouse pump backpacks.

Sperry Intermediate Elementary School, and Sequoyah Middle School – E-books.

Caney Valley Public Schools – garage doors for the Ag building under construction. 



(Above) Avant Fire Chief Gene Atkins accepts a check from VVEC Member Services Representative Paula Lanni for requested equipment.

(Left) Sperry Library Media Specialist Beth Coyle and Principal Richard Akin accept a check for E-book readers.

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Office hours

7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.,
Monday through Friday

Editor - Kay Rabbitt-Brower

VVEC offices will be closed

Monday, July 4 in recognition of Independence Day. Call (918) 371-2584 or 1-800 870-5948 to report an outage.

Summer Residential Rates

April through September usage,
May through October billing

Customer Charge \$20.00

Energy Charge

1st 2,000 kWh \$0.0801/kWh

Over 2,000 kWh \$0.0851/kWh

A power cost adjustment (PCA) will be applied to all bills when the actual cost of power purchased exceeds or is less than 55.993 mills per kWh.

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

Don't Forget the Rebate!

If you are going to be purchasing new electric appliances soon, don't forget the rebate!

VVEC offers rebates on

- electric water heaters
- ground-source heat pumps
- air-source heat pumps
- dual-fuel heat pumps
- clothes washers
- dishwashers
- room air conditioners

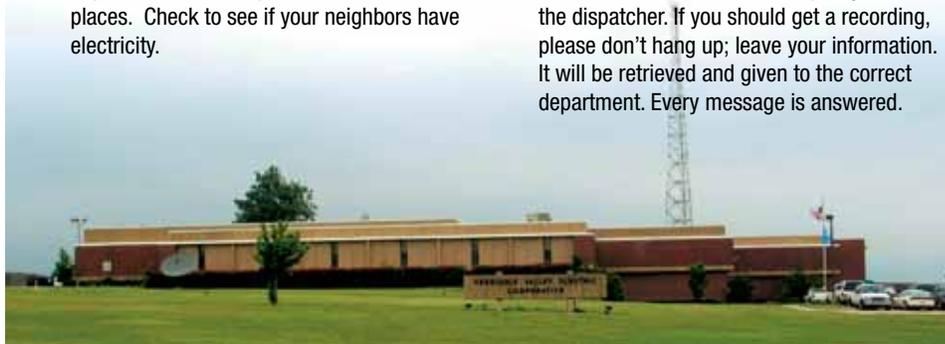


All of the appliances need to be Energy Star-rated. To qualify for a rebate, clothes washers and/or dishwashers must be installed in homes with an electric water heater.

Check our Web site – www.vvec.com – for the latest rebate information or to download a rebate form. If you have questions about our rebate program, please call our Member Services department at (918) 371-2584.

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 70 • NUMBER 6 • JUNE 2011

Dispatch is Vital to Daily Operations

One of the most vital areas of VVEC is never seen by the members. But without it, the co-op would not be able to provide electric service, or respond to members' needs, as quickly and as efficiently as it does.

The dispatch section is the nerve center of the co-op's operations department, and helps with uninterrupted and continuous service through real-time communications with employees in the field.

Dispatcher Jan White oversees those communications with state-of-the-art technology and equipment.

Each day White and her team of back-up dispatchers take phone calls from members reporting electric service problems ranging from individual blinking lights or malfunctioning security lights to substation outages affecting a large number of members.

"We get as much information as possible so we can determine what kind of problems they're having," White explains. "We then relay that info to the linemen which helps them know what problems to look for when they reach the location, or what equipment they may need to repair it."

The dispatchers use outage management system and map reader software which helps the operations personnel quickly develop a realistic picture of the outage being reported. White says she can even project all or the affected portion of VVEC's service territory on a 9-foot x10-foot wall area in the dispatch center, enabling them to literally see the outage. They can quickly determine how many members are affected, pinpoint the source of the outage, and what members are affected as service is restored.

There are three stations in the dispatch center that include computers, monitors and telephones. There is also a wall-mounted 42-inch flat screen television usually tuned to either a lo-

and Gary Yarbrough. "We each have other primary jobs," explains Curtis, "but we can either move into the dispatch center or take calls from our offices." The team's offices are located



Dispatch section of the operations department is comprised of (standing left to right) Regina Curtis, Sharon Mendell, Darrell White, Kim Swango, and Gary Yarbrough, along with (seated) Jan White and Keith DeLozier.

cal or national weather station.

The dispatch center is manned during the cooperative's standard business hours - 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. After hours, it is remotely manned by KAMO Power's dispatch staff.

"But if we have a large outage after hours, we call our dispatchers in and resume dispatching from KAMO," says White.

During that time, the dispatch team helps White. That team consists of Regina Curtis, Sharon Mendell, Keith DeLozier, Kim Swango, Darrell White,

just off the dispatch center.

"These are a great group of people," says White. "We enjoy working together and this is an exciting area. There is always something going on," she says.

Curtis agrees saying "We support the linemen as they work to restore electric service as quickly as possible."

"These people are committed to their jobs, and we're proud to work with them," says White. 

Take Co-op Connections® Card on Summer Vacation

It is summertime and no matter what your vacation plans, you will want to take your Co-op Connections® Card with you so you can enjoy the savings that come from being a member of an electric cooperative.

If high gas prices are keeping you close to home this summer, you can still save money by using your Co-op Connections Card.

You can visit **Andersonville Cottage Bed & Breakfast**, or **Country Inn Bed & Breakfast**, or **Super 8 Motel**, all in Claremore.

Get some relief from the sweltering Oklahoma heat at **Crystal Bay Marina** in Skiatook, drop by the **Tastee Freeze** in Skiatook, or **Cherry Berry Yogurt Bar** in Owasso. Cherry Berry is one of VVEC's newest Connections Card partners and is offering three ounces of yogurt free when you show your Co-op

Connections Card.

Don't heat up the kitchen by cooking, visit **Church's Chicken** in Owasso and get 10-percent off regular menu items, excluding the monthly specials. Or visit **The Daily Grind Sandwich Shop**, Bartlesville, for a free 12- or 16-oz. soda with purchase of breakfast or lunch items, or 10-percent off an order of \$10 or more.

No matter if you are having a 'staycation' here at home, or taking a traditional vacation, you will want your car to be in tip-top condition.

Visit **Accurate Automotive**, Bartlesville, and get 10-percent off labor rate with a \$50 maximum discount; **Chapman Auto** in Skiatook offers a 10-percent discount; **Tate Boys Tire & Service**, Claremore, offers 10-percent off service and 5-percent off of tires; **Robertson Tire**, Owasso, also offers 10-per-

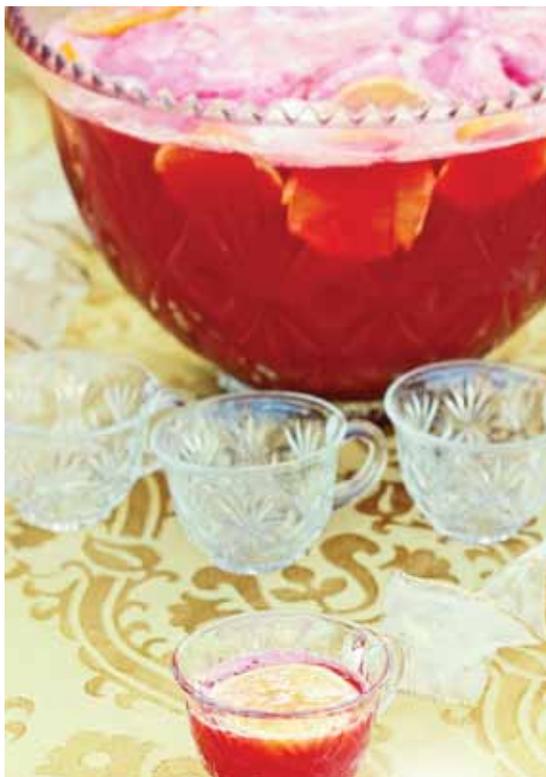
cent off; **Bartlesville Collision Center** offers a 5-percent discount on labor.

If your vacation plans call for traveling outside of northeastern Oklahoma, you can still enjoy Connections Card savings.

Visit www.co-opconnections.com for a list of businesses offering savings to Connections Card holders.

There are special offerings at hotels, motels, and bed and breakfasts; amusement and water parks; museums and theatres, zoos, outdoor recreation venues, dining opportunities, and a wide variety of retail specialities such as antiques, apparel, books, cell phones, gifts, and jewelry.

Take the Co-op Connections Card and enjoy some of the numerous benefits of being an electric cooperative member.



RECIPE

Luscious Slush Punch

- 2 1/2 cups white sugar
- 6 cups water
- 2 (3-oz.) packages strawberry flavored gelatin mix
- 1 (46-fluid-oz.) can pineapple juice
- 2/3 cup lemon juice
- 1 qt. orange juice
- 2 (2-liter) bottles lemon-lime flavored carbonated beverage

In a large saucepan, combine sugar, water, and strawberry flavored gelatin. Boil for 3 minutes. Stir in pineapple juice, lemon juice, and orange juice. Divide mixture in half, and freeze in 2 separate containers.

When ready to serve, place the frozen contents of one container in a punch bowl, and stir in 1 bottle of lemon-lime soda until slushy.

YIELD: 2 punch bowls, or about 50 4-oz. servings.