

Pay Your Electric Bill from the Comfort of Your Home p. 3

# Co-op Connections Card Helps with Spring Projects

All the snow that was dumped on northeastern Oklahoma in February may have made us think Spring is never going to get here. But the first day of Spring is March 20, and a lot of VVEC members are eager to start home improvement or landscaping projects.

The Co-op Connections Card can help with those projects.

There are local and regional businesses offering discounts and specials especially for VVEC members.

One of the best times to install a new heating and cooling system or service your current system is when you are not using it. So you may want to buy a new system or service yours before the pleasant turns into

Oklahoma Spring the heat of an Oklahoma Summer.

**Air Solutions Heating and Cooling** of Sand Springs, will be glad to help.

Air Solutions offers Co-op

Connections Card holders \$20 off a diagnostic service call or

\$150 off a complete HVAC system.

If your roof needs some work, then you will want to visit **Mark Close Roofing and Construction**, Ramona, or **Rainproof Roofing Co.**, Tulsa.

The folks at Mark Close Roofing and Construction offer VVEC members four free low-profile vents with the purchase of a new roof or \$25 off roof repair when they show their Co-op Connections Card.

Rainproof Roofing Co. will take \$100 off the price of a new roof installation; \$25 off roof repairs; or a free roof inspection.

Everyone wants a beautiful lawn, but not many people want, or have the time, to create one. **1st Choice Lawncare**

of Bartlesville can help you have the most beautiful lawn in the neighborhood. Show your Connections Card and get \$20 off a new customer application, or 10 percent off existing customer optional services.

If your landscaping project needs more than a shovel and a hoe, you might want to contact **Green Country Outdoor Equipment** in Skiatook. Co-op Connections Card holders can get 10 percent off repair labor charges on service for power equipment.

Indoor projects can get special Connections Card deals also.

**Perfixx Painting** in Owasso offers card holders 15 percent off paint, while **Cliff's Flooring and Windows, Inc.** of Bartlesville, offers 5 percent off your purchase. (Not to be combined with other Cliff's Flooring and Windows' offers.)

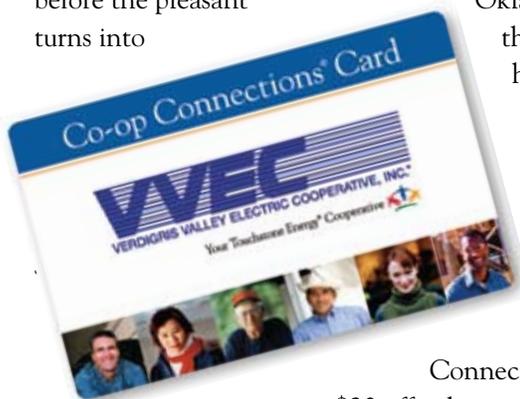
Once your painting and flooring projects are complete, it's time for new furniture. **Neis Furniture** of Owasso offers card holders a 5 percent discount. (Card must be used at time of purchase and not valid on sale items or additional discounts.)

Nice weather is a good time to tackle the garage. Once it's cleaned out, you can advertise your garage or yard sale free at **freegaragesaleads.com** in Skiatook, or post your classified ads free online at **www.5buckads.com**.

Don't forget it's almost tax time. **Dandee Tax Service** of Oologah offers Co-op Connections Card holders 10 percent off all tax preparation services.

There are close to 70 local businesses participating in the Co-op Connections Card program; hundreds more nationwide businesses. You can visit VVEC's Web site at [www.VVEC.com](http://www.VVEC.com) or [www.Connections.com](http://www.Connections.com) for a list of those businesses.

If you are a business interested in joining the program, call Jane VanSickle at VVEC at (918) 371-2584, between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. 



VVEC Board of Trustees

- District 1 - **Jim Brackett, 720-4531**
- District 2 - **Jack Bogart, 371-9587**
- District 3 - **Vernon Lewis, 341-5225**
- District 4 - **John Hibdon, 847-2320**
- District 5 - **Jimmy Lambert, 760-7029**
- District 6 - **Dennis Lenox, 396-1574**
- District 7 - **Charles Huerter, 333-3107**
- District 8 - **Ken Howard, 371-4833**
- District 9 - **Buddy McCarty, 272-5134 or 272-5364**

**General Manager** - Alice Houston

**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.,  
Monday through Friday

**Editor** - Kay Rabbitt-Brower

### Winter Residential Rates

October through March usage,  
November through April billing

Customer Charge                    \$20.00

Energy Charge

1st 1,000 kWh                    \$0.0731/kWh

Over 1,000 kWh                    \$0.0671/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.

# Few Outages During State's Worst Blizzard

The Blizzard of 2011 is a storm no one is likely to forget very soon. Record amounts of snow, on top of a sheet of ice, made more unbearable by temperatures that fell below the zero mark and remained there.

As harsh as it was, it could have been worse if VVEC members would have been without electricity.

Fortunately, only a few outages occurred. Being able to deliver electricity in that severe weather didn't happen by accident; it was the result of year-round programs aimed at keeping electrical equipment in good working order, and rights-of-way clear and maintained.

VVEC crews work throughout the year checking poles and equipment, while right-of-way crews clear trees, limbs, and brush from near powerlines.

"When we have severe weather, and only a few members have outages, then we know those programs are paying off," says Mike Hall, VVEC director of operations.

If you have trees or branches that need to be removed from our right-of-way, please call the co-op at (918) 371-2584, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. 

## 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 3 • MARCH 2011

# Don't Let Severe Weather Keep You from Paying Your Electric Bill



If the snow made it difficult for you to receive or pay your electric bill, don't forget you have options in addition to the U.S. Mail.

You can view your bill at [www.VVEC.com](http://www.VVEC.com), where you can see the amount of your bill and the date by when payment is due.

If you want to pay your bill online, simply scroll down the homepage to the 'pay your bill online' icon. Click on it and follow the prompts. You can pay using your credit or debit card or your checking account. There is no charge for this service.

Or you can pay over the phone using the Choice Pay feature. There is a \$3.95 charge for this service.

By using these features, you can check your account and pay your bill from the comfort and warmth of your home. 

## School, Fire Grant Applications Due in April

Applications for the Adopt-A-School, and Rural Fire Department grant programs were mailed to area superintendents and fire chiefs in February.

Deadline to return the completed applications is **Friday, April 8.**

Through these programs VVEC is able to help area schools and fire departments get supplies and equipment needed to educate our youth, and protect our families, home and property.

For more information about these grants, contact program coordinator Paula Lanni at (918) 371-2584. 

## E-Mail Meter Readings Instead of Calling or Mailing Them to the Co-op

If you are one of the accounts that has to call or send in your meter readings each month, you can now E-mail those readings to the co-op.

Those accounts have a meter reading grid on the return portion of the monthly bill. If the grid is not on the bill, then you do not need to send in a reading.

Now the readings can be E-mailed to [Meterreadings@VVEC.com](mailto:Meterreadings@VVEC.com), and should be sent on or before the 25th of each month.

The E-mail needs to include:

- account number
- meter number
- date the meter was read

These meters need to be read at the same time each month; between the 6th and the 24th of the month.

# It's Already Time to Think About Air Conditioning

The comfortable spring weather is more likely to nudge you to open your windows than to turn on the air conditioner – and that makes this the perfect time to make sure your a/c is in shape for the summer heat that's just a few months away.

The best time to service your home's air conditioning system is when you don't need it. If you put it off until it's 90 degrees outdoors, you could be dealing with some down time that can leave your home pretty uncomfortable.

Annual service is important because your technician will lubricate and clean moving parts and check for – and repair – potential problems. That will make it more likely that your system will run smoothly all summer.

Choose an a/c tech who is licensed by the state. Chances are, the same tech

can come back in the fall to tune up your heating system. 



## Upgrade Your Windows and Save

If you live in an older home, it's a good bet that its windows are made from single panes of glass.

Newer homes typically come with double-pane windows, and for good reason: They're far more energy efficient. In fact, the U.S. Department of Energy estimates that you can save between 7 percent and 15 percent on heating and cooling bills when you replace single-pane windows with double-pane versions, especially if they're rated by the government's Energy Star program as extra-energy efficient.

You can find out how much money you can save each year if you replace your old windows with more efficient models. Visit [www.energystar.gov/ia/products/windows\\_doors/CitySavingsEstimates.pdf](http://www.energystar.gov/ia/products/windows_doors/CitySavingsEstimates.pdf).

Savings range from \$77 in mild climates to more than \$500 in areas with extreme winters or summers.



### RECIPE

## Chicken Spaghetti

4 boneless chicken breasts, cut into small chunks  
 16-oz. pkg. thin spaghetti  
 1 can Cream of Mushroom soup, undiluted  
 1 can Cream of Chicken soup, undiluted  
 1/4 cup diced onion  
 1/4 cup diced celery  
 1 lb. Velveeta, cubed  
 1 can Rotel  
 Salt and pepper to taste  
 Grated cheese  
 Sliced black olives

In large saucepan, cook chicken breasts, onion and celery, in boiling water until tender. Remove chicken and strain broth. Cook spaghetti in broth while chicken cools. Once spaghetti is cooked, drain, remove from heat.

Add soups, Velveeta, Rotel, and salt and pepper. Stir until cheese is almost melted, stir in chicken. Pour into greased baking dish and cook 20 to 25 minutes at 350°. Top with grated cheese and black olives, return to oven until cheese melts.