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Be Prepared for Severe Weather with iMap Alert Program

Mother Nature was subdued during the winter months, but that doesn't mean she won't unleash her fury in the spring. Living in Oklahoma, we know what Mother Nature's fury is like; it usually involves rain, hail, strong winds, and tornadoes.

Advance notice of severe weather helps keep you and your family safe.

Giving you advance notice is what our iMapAlert program does.

This free service provides weather forecasts and severe weather alerts for your specific area delivered right to your E-mail in-box or cell phone. Now you can be notified when bad weather is heading your way so you can plan accordingly.

The iMapAlert service includes daily 7-day forecast E-mails that are delivered to one E-mail in-box every day before dawn.

You will also receive emergency alerts from the National Weather Service via E-mail or text message for your specific area, 24-hours a day. These are sent to the E-mail address or cell phone you choose. This tool also serves as a valuable communications tool that allows us to send you emergency informa-

tion, if necessary.

VVEC uses the iMapAlert system to tell you when peak electric usage times occur and when you need to conserve your individual energy consumption.

Participating in this valuable weather-alerting service is quick, easy and free. Just go to www.vvec.com, and click on the iMapAlert icon. You will be asked to fill out your name, address, E-mail address or cell phone number, and the name of the co-op that serves you.

Also, there is an iMapAlert premium package that is ideal for members who travel frequently. Cost of this package is \$5.95 per month, and details are available on our Web site.

For more information on this program or how to participate, please contact Kay Rabbitt-Brower or our member services department at (918) 371-2584, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, or visit www.VVEC.com. 

TWACS Meter Installation Begins in Owasso Area This Month

The Two-Way Automated Communication System (TWACS) meters will be installed on accounts in the Owasso area this month says Randy Riddle, VVEC's manager of operations and technical services.

Contractors will begin installing about 200 meters scattered throughout three substations during the first week of the month. Tests will then be run on those meters.

The main installation will begin Monday, April 30.

Riddle points out the change-out on each meter will take just a few seconds, and says the contractors will have signs on their vehicles identifying them as VVEC contractors.

Anyone with questions about the TWACS meters or this program is encouraged to call Riddle at (918) 371-2584 between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. 

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 Monday through Friday

Editor - Kay Rabbitt-Brower

VVEC offices will be closed April 6 for Good Friday. Please call (918) 371-2584 to report an outage.

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.

Rates to Increase 1 Percent This Summer

"An increase in the cost of everything from gasoline to office supplies is causing an increase in the cost of doing business for VVEC. That increase is forcing us to increase electric rates slightly," says Clyde Willard, VVEC's director of finance.

He goes on to say the increase is minimal; only one percent.

"All rate classes are increasing by the same percentage," he says, adding the last increase was in late 2008.

Willard says the increase will appear on bills mailed after July 1.

More information on rates will be included in upcoming issues of *VVEC Power Circuit*. 

Youth Tour and Energy Camp Winners Announced in May *Power Circuit*

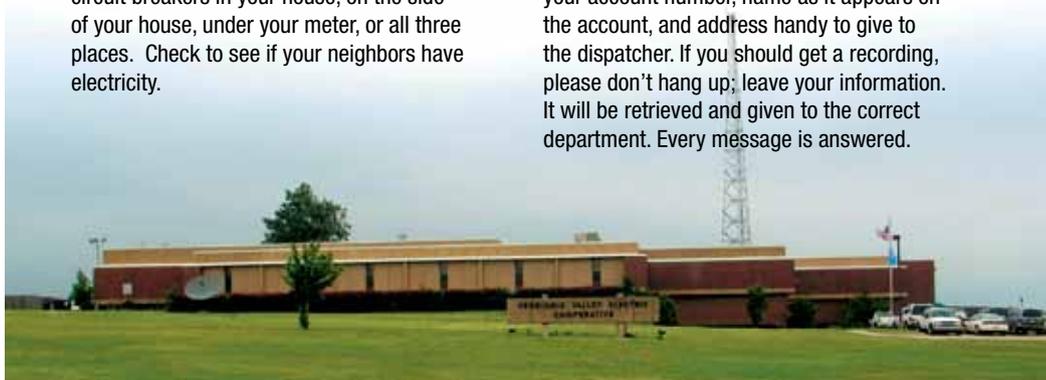
This issue of *Power Circuit* went to press before the conclusion of the 2012 Youth Tour and Energy Camp programs.

Numerous outstanding essays were submitted in both programs and judging was still ongoing as this issue was completed and sent to the printer.

Winners will be announced in the May issue. 

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.



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Meeting Friends at the Tulsa Home & Garden Show

It's spring, and one of the most enjoyable places to learn about all things related to your home and outdoor lifestyle is the Tulsa Home & Garden Show.

VVEC joined with four other electric co-ops in northeastern Oklahoma to sponsor a booth on the upper level of the Quik Trip Center.

Visitors to the booth could watch how much slower a meter turns when a CFL bulb is on as opposed to an incandescent bulb; check the energy efficiency of the four most common forms of insulation, inspect a double-pane window, and a Marathon water heater with a life-time guarantee,

Visitors could also spin the wheel and win either a rain gauge or 'Pansies in a Cup' kit.

"The Home & Garden Show is always a good time," says Jane Van Sickle, VVEC member services representative (pictured right.)

"We enjoy visiting with the members who stop by every year." 

Give Your AC Some Tender Loving Care

Once the weather starts to warm up but before it gets hot outdoors, schedule an appointment with a qualified air conditioning technician to take a look at your AC system.

Chances are, you'll get good news: Your AC is good to go for another summer.

That doesn't mean you're off the hook for looking after it until you call the tech next spring.

Between visits:

- Change the filter every month or two, depending how hot and dusty it gets. A filter that's clogged with

allergens and dust won't let air circulate freely to the AC system, which will make it work harder, use more energy and cost you more to operate.

- Keep your outdoor AC unit clean. Sweep away plants, fallen branches and debris that fall on top of it and even from the ground around it. Objects that are too close can prevent adequate air flow.

- Vacuum indoor registers and air vents regularly. Heating contractors say simple dust and dirt cause almost half of their service calls.

- Move furniture and drapes away from registers. 

Know How to Shut Off Your Electricity

If you have a gas or plumbing leak, you might need to shut off your home's electricity as well as the gas and water.

You can turn off the electricity inside your circuit breaker panel or fuse box. You would usually do this only in an extreme emergency.

Before you're faced with an emergency, locate your box. It might be in a utility closet or the garage. It's a metal box full of switches or fuses.

If your box is full of switches, they control your home's electrical circuits. To turn your electricity off, turn all of the switches to the "off" position, and then switch off the main switch at the top.

Two cautions:

- If your floor is flooded or if the electrical panel is wet, do not touch the panel.
- If you see exposed wires inside the box, do not touch them. In both cases, call an electrician to handle this dangerous task.

Don't flip the main switch except during an emergency. If you're having a problem with electricity in a particular room or with one appliance, you can flip the switch that powers just that area. Often, you'll find the individual switch is "off," and you can solve the problem by simply turning it back on. 



RECIPE

Fruit-Topped Cream Cheese Tarts

- 1 (8 oz.) package cream cheese, softened
- 1 (14 oz.) can Eagle Brand® Sweetened Condensed Milk
- 1/3 cup lemon juice
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2 (4 oz.) packages single-serve graham cracker crumb crusts
- Assorted fruit (strawberries, blueberries, bananas, raspberries, orange segments, cherries, kiwi fruit)

Beat cream cheese in large bowl until fluffy. Gradually beat in sweetened condensed milk until smooth. Stir in lemon juice and vanilla. Spoon into crusts.

Chill 2 hours or until set. Just before serving, top with fruit; brush with jelly, if desired.