

[Your Ceiling Fans can Cut Utility Bills and Improve Comfort p. 3](#)

Grant Programs Make Positive Impact on Area Fire Departments, Schools

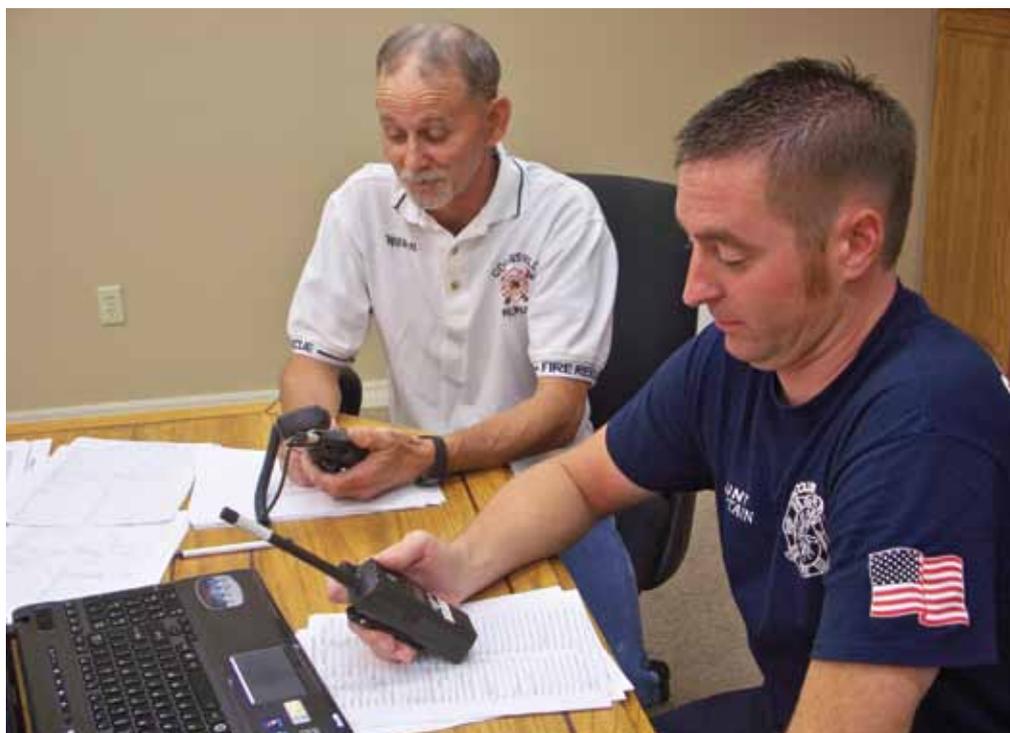
Being a good neighbor is important, especially when times are tough.

Each year, VVEC awards grants to area fire departments and schools to help them purchase much-needed equipment.

This year six area fire departments and four area schools are recipients of the Rural Fire Department, and Adopt-A-School grants.

With funding through the Rural Fire Department grant program **Collinsville Rural Fire Department** will purchase two Motorola hand-held radios; **Barnsdall Rural Fire Department** will purchase a 250cc HP Briggs & Stratton fire pump, along with paint for a used semi-truck and tanker; **Owens & Company Fire Service** can buy 15 mobile radios, 15 hand-held radios, and 20 pagers; **Boulanger Rural Fire Department** can purchase seven Bullard safety helmets with face shields and flame retardant liners; **Wann Fire Department** will purchase an automated external defibrillator (AED); and the **Rock Fire Department** can buy six smoke masks.

Through the Adopt-A-School program **Collinsville High School's** science teacher Janell Lundgren can purchase two Toshiba notebook computers for her physical science and biology classes; **Caney Valley**



Collinsville Rural Fire Department Chief Jimmy Wilson (left) and Captain Derek Hunt inspect two new Motorola hand-held radios purchased with funds from the Rural Fire Department grant program.

Elementary School will be able to mud, tape and texture walls in the cafeteria, along with buying painting equipment and trim for the windows and doors; **Oologah High School** can buy 10 FLIP Mino HD video cameras for the multi-media and desktop publishing classes; and **Collinsville's Wilson Elementary School** students will enjoy some new playground equipment next year.

"Through these two programs we are able to help members feel secure that their fire departments have the necessary equipment to protect their lives and property, and to help our schools educate and prepare our young people to lead productive lives," says VVEC General Manager Alice Houston. "Improving the lives of our members, and the communities they live in, is an integral part of our cooperative mission."

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VVEC offices will be closed Wednesday, July 4 for the Independence Day holiday. Please call (918) 371-2584 to report an outage.

Summer Residential Rates

April through September usage,
May through October billing

Customer Charge \$20.20

Energy Charge

1st 2,000 kWh \$0.0809/kWh
Over 2,000 kWh \$0.0860/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.

Stay Comfortable, Save Money With these Energy-Saving Tips

We don't know yet if this summer is going to be as extreme as last summer was, but it's certain it is going to be hot.

Of course, you want to save your energy dollars this summer, but you also want to be comfortable. Keeping these tips in mind can help you do both.

 Kick up your thermostat one to two degrees and use your ceiling fans. You'll save energy, and the fans will cool you.

 Avoid cranking the AC way down when you get home from work or a vacation. Instead, set it back to your normal temperature and let your equipment take its time to condition the air. It won't take long and it will waste far less energy than forcing a surge of cold air into the house.

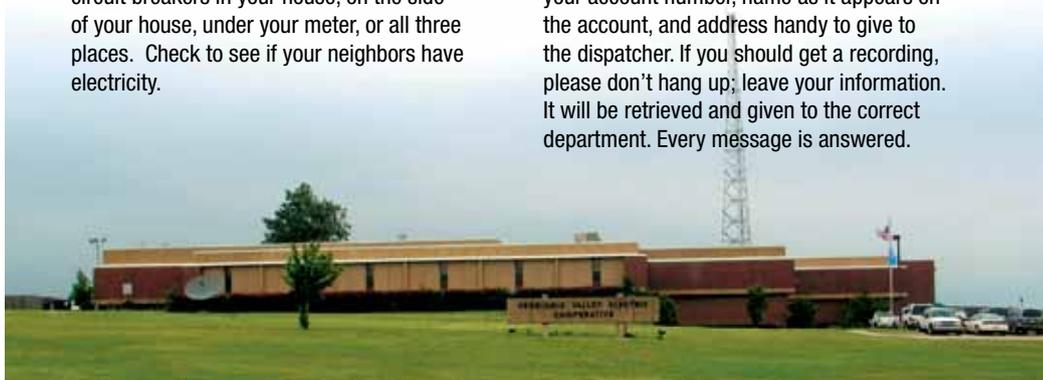
 Keep the blinds or drapes drawn on south or west facing windows. This will keep the temperature cooler in the house, and prevent the AC from having to work as hard during the hottest part of the day.

Remember, our new rates are now in effect. Practicing these energy efficiency tips can help you get the most from your energy dollars, stay comfortable, and control your electric bill.



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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Ceiling Fan Cuts Energy Bills; Improves Comfort

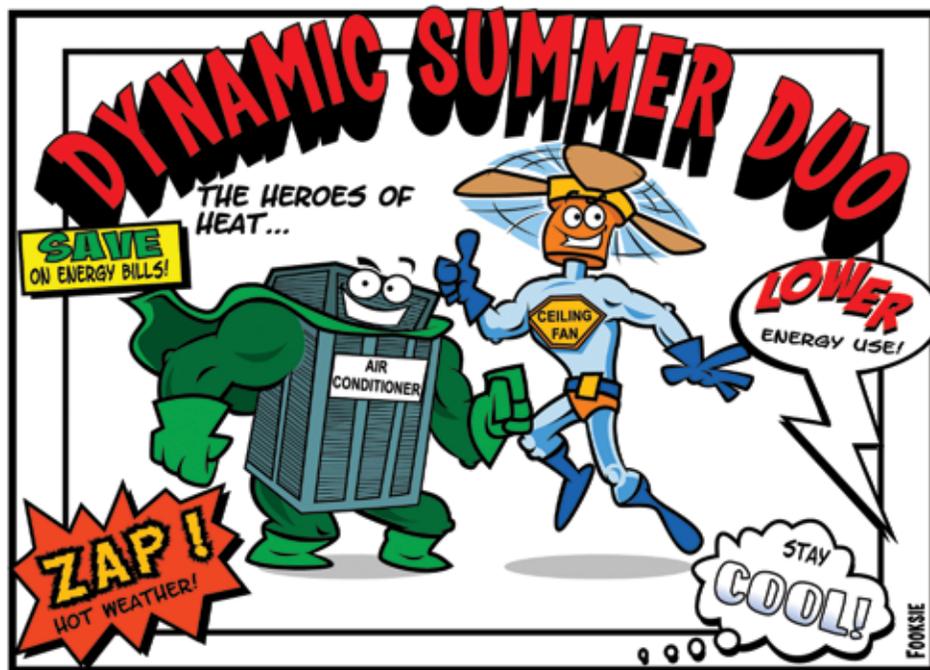
Running a ceiling fan along with your air conditioner can cool you down enough that you can inch your thermostat up a little bit — and save some money on hot-weather energy bills.

Here are three ways to get the most out of the ceiling fans in your house:

1. Most ceiling fans have a

determine which direction to set your fan blades is to turn the fan on and stand under it. If you feel a cool breeze on your skin, you've chosen the "summer" setting. If you don't, reverse the direction of the blades.

2. Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. The downward-flowing breeze will make you feel more



switch that lets you change the direction of the blades so they rotate clockwise (spinning to the right) or counter-clockwise (spinning to the left). Some fan manufacturers label this "forward" and "reverse." It used to be that every manufacturer would advise homeowners to set their fan blades to spin counter-clockwise in the summer and clockwise in the winter. That's often still true, but not for all brands. The better way to

comfortable, but it won't actually change the temperature of your room. So turn off the ceiling fan when you leave the room where it's located. There's no need to pay for the energy it takes to run it if nobody is in the room to enjoy it.

3. When you add or replace a ceiling fan, choose an Energy Star model, which is up to nine times more efficient at moving air than others.

Stay Safe Around Fireworks



Whether you're attending a fireworks display or setting off your own this 4th of July, steer clear of overhead power lines.

If you notice that organizers of the fireworks show your family attends are too close to electrical lines, leave the party early.

And if you're involved with setting up a neighborhood display, keep the explosives 30 feet away from utility lines.

Stay away from utility poles, too; never string fireworks on them. And if you're using a ladder to set up your display, keep it 10 feet away from all power lines, which are energized and can electrocute someone who accidentally touches one.

Finally, if anything gets tangled in an overhead power line, do not try to retrieve it. Call VVEC at 918-371-2584 for help. Or, if the situation seems like an emergency, dial 911.

Celebrate Independence Day with good food, friends and family, and lots of colorful fireworks. But don't forget to celebrate safely.

Have a Happy 4th of July!

Energy Camp is a Fun Way to Start the Summer



Tyler (above) gets a good dousing during a 'Get Acquainted' activity at Energy Camp held at Canyon Camp, east of Hinton.

Gina (front row, second from the right) is a member of the camp's Coke & Candy Cooperative board of directors.



Owasso 8th graders Gina Cordray and Tyler Goodman spent four days at YouthPower Energy Camp in June having fun, and learning about electric co-ops and electricity.

Cordray is the daughter of Steven and Stacie Cordray, and Tyler is the son of James and Shelley Goodman.

While at camp, they attended sessions on energy, electrical safety and rural electric careers. They elected their own manager and board of directors, and operated a Coke & Candy co-op.

Cordray was selected as a director by her fellow campers.

Other activities included hands-on electrical demonstrations such as utility pole climbing, bucket truck rides from linemen, a low-element ropes course, swimming, an energy battle tournament, and a trip to Celebration Station for video games and go-carts.



RECIPE

July is National Ice Cream Month

Milky Way Ice Cream

- 16 oz. Milky Way candy bars
- 1 qt. whipping cream
- 4 eggs
- 1 1/2 quarts milk
- 1 pkg. (3.4 ounces) instant vanilla pudding mix
- 1 pkg. (3.9 ounces) instant chocolate pudding mix

In a double boiler, melt candy bars with half the cream. Beat eggs in remaining cream. Whisk into melted chocolate mixture. Cook and stir for 5 minutes. Cool. Beat milk and pudding mixes. Fold into chocolate mixture. Chill several hours or overnight. Freeze in an ice cream freezer according to instructions.

YIELD: Makes 3 quarts.