

A PUBLICATION  
OF YOUR  
ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE

# Powerlines

APRIL  
2017



## In this issue

Storm Safety P.2

Ag Safety Breakfast P.3

Nominating Committee P.3

Linemen Appreciation Day P.4

PPS Updates P.4

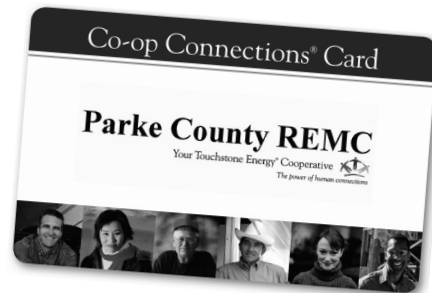
## Co-op Connections Card Saves You Money!

At Parke County REMC, we are dedicated to making sure you receive electric service at a price your family can afford. But it doesn't stop there. One of the best services we offer saves you money on everything from clothing to automotive services, from dining to travel – and so much more. The Co-op Connections card is a valuable member benefit that not only saves you money, but helps local businesses in our community.

The Co-op Connections card gives co-op members discounts on everyday expenses and features a cash-back mall, where you can get paid to shop online

at nearly 3,000 retailers. It also provides health savings that augment your current medical benefits. The card includes discounts on prescriptions at over 60,000 locations. Co-op Connections cardholders have saved over \$64 million on prescriptions since the program began! You can also receive discounts on chiropractic care, lab work, imaging, vision services and dental care. The

card can even help you save on energy efficient appliances. Learn more about the Co-op Connections card by visiting [www.pcremc.com](http://www.pcremc.com), and clicking the "Your Community" link.



## Parke County REMC

Your Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperative 

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119 West High Street  
Rockville, IN 47872

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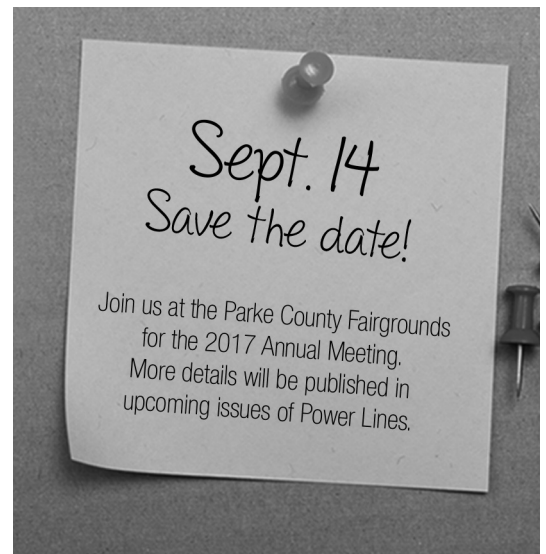
Email:  
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Telephone:  
765-569-3133  
800-537-3913  
765-569-3360 (Fax)

Office Hours:  
Monday-Friday  
7:30 am to 4:30 pm



**Parke County REMC  
will be closed  
Monday, May 29  
in Honor of Memorial Day**





## BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.



### ■ WATER

Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.



### ■ TOOLS

Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.



### ■ FIRST AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.

Learn more at  
[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)



Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

# Be Prepared for Spring Storms

We've all heard the saying that "April showers bring May flowers." But are you prepared for a spring shower to turn into a threatening storm? While not all damage can be prevented, being prepared can help minimize damage and reduce injury or death.

In the case of a severe storm, familiarize yourself with these terms to help identify the hazard.

**Storm Watch** – tells you when and where a severe storm is likely to occur. Watch the sky and stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio or television for information.

**Storm Warning** – issued when severe weather is already occurring. Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property to those in the path of the storm. Take shelter immediately.

Here are some helpful tips from Parke County REMC for staying safe before, during and after a storm hits.

## Before the storm

- Make sure your cell phone is charged. Consider purchasing an external battery pack for extended battery life.
- Program the phone number of Parke County REMC into your cell phone in case you need to report a power outage. Our number is 765-569-3133 or toll free, 800-537-3913.
- Have a battery-operated radio available so you can stay updated on the latest weather watches and warnings.
- Unplug appliances and electronics, such as computers and televisions. Damage can occur from power surges as a result of lightning strikes. Consider adding surge protectors in the event you are unable to unplug the devices.
- Know where the manual release lever of your electric garage door opener is located and how to operate it.
- Remove dead or rotting trees on your prop-

erty that could cause damage to power lines or your home during a storm.

- Have an emergency kit ready and create a family communication plan.

## During the storm

- Don't use corded phones or electrical devices that are plugged in.
- Only use flashlights for emergency lighting, candles can cause fires.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. Most food requiring refrigeration can be kept safely in a closed refrigerator for several hours. A full freezer will keep the temperature for about 48 hours.
- Don't leave your vehicle during a storm. If a downed power line falls on your vehicle, stay in the vehicle unless it's life threatening. Call 911. If you must exit the vehicle, shuffle away with small steps, keeping your feet together at all times.

## After the storm

- Watch out for debris or downed power lines. Because downed power lines could still be energized, do not touch them or any objects in contact with them. Call Parke County REMC to report the downed lines.
- If you notice frayed wiring or sparks, or smell a burning odor, shut off the electrical system at the main circuit breaker immediately.
- Only use generators away from your home and never run a generator inside a home or garage.
- After a power outage, throw away any food that has been exposed to temperatures above 40 degrees Fahrenheit for two hours or more or that has an unusual odor, color or texture. When in doubt, throw it out!

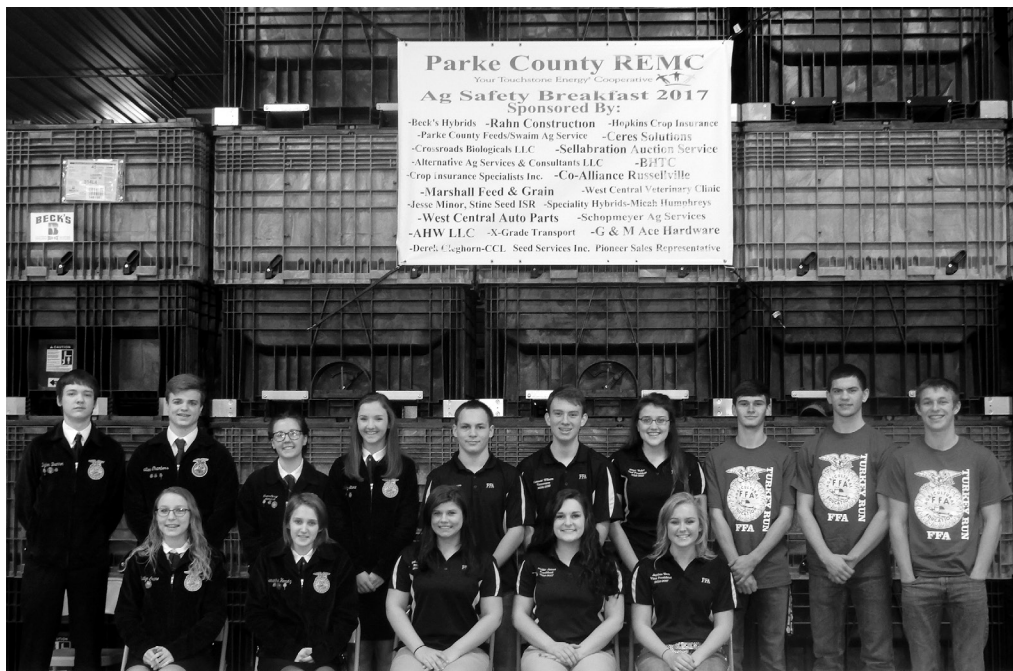


# REMC Hosts Ag Safety Breakfast

*Right, Parke County REMC Lineman Cole Mathas demonstrates some of the safety equipment used by line personnel on the job.*

*Below, Parke County REMC Operations Manager Mike Jeffries gives a safety presentation to REMC members at the Ag Safety Breakfast.*

*Bottom, members of the North Central Parke and Riverton Parke FFA pose for a photo at the Ag Safety Breakfast on Feb. 24 hosted by Parke County REMC. The event was provided to help educate our Agriculture Community on the importance of electric safety.*



## NEWS *briefs*

### Nominating Committee to Meet

The Parke County REMC Nominating Committee will meet on Tuesday, May 30 at 6:00 p.m. to consider candidates to be elected to the REMC board of directors at the 2017 annual meeting. The deadline to submit names is May 15, 2017.

Director districts that are up for re-election include, District 3; Janean Pyle Deplanty is the current representative of District 3, which includes Jackson Township and Millcreek Township in Fountain County, Indiana; and Greene Township, Howard Township, Liberty Township, Sugar Creek Township, and Washington Township in Parke County, Indiana. District 6; Donald Perry Mager is the current representative of District 6 which includes Dick Johnson Township in Clay County, Indiana; and Florida Township and Raccoon Township in Parke County, Indiana; and Nevins Township and Otter Creek Township in Vigo County, Indiana. District 7; Mark Evans is the current representative of District 7 which includes Clinton Township, Floyd Township, Franklin Township, Greencastle Township, Monroe Township, and Russell Township in Putnam County Indiana.

### New Line Superintendent

Parke County REMC's Tophel Secuskie was recently named the new line superintendent for the co-op after the retirement of Phil Hill. Secuskie was originally hired in 1989. He began his career in 1989



*Tophel Secuskie*

as one of the first apprentices from Parke County REMC to go through the REAP program. He became a Journeyman Lineman in 1995 and became a Foreman in 2014.

### Hill Retires after 40+ years



*Best wishes to Parke County REMC's Phil Hill (left). He retired last month after more than 40 years of service. He is pictured here with REMC CEO Chadd Jenkins.*

# LIVES On The LINE

Every year, we take the time to thank our extraordinary line workers who dedicate their lives to keeping the lights on in our local communities. Our Line personnel maintain over 1,800 miles of line in Parke County REMC's service territory, and without them, our world would be dark.

We depend on our entire staff to keep Parke County REMC running smoothly, but on April 10, 2017, we honor all line workers who often find themselves in dangerous and challenging situations, so our lives may be a little bit brighter and safer every day. These brave men repair damaged lines and maintain critical infrastructure for our communities. Without their hard work and commitment to the job, our co-op would not thrive. No matter the time—day or night, weekday or weekend—if the lights go out, so do they.

Perhaps you have seen them raising their bucket

trucks in howling winds and torrential rains, or in freezing, icy conditions. They work around the clock near high-voltage power lines until electricity is restored to every member in our co-op community.

In addition to aiding members in our local service territory, line workers are always willing and eager to volunteer when a neighboring community, county or state is in need after a major outage occurs. Our linemen are brave, committed and critical to our success.

We hope you will join us in thanking the many line workers—both locally and around the world—that light our lives. Remember, your power works because they do! Use #ThankALineman on social media to show your support, or visit the Parke County REMC Facebook page to leave a comment of appreciation for our linemen.

## Energy Tip of the Month

### Dishwasher Efficiency:

Dishwasher Efficiency Tip:  
Air dry clean dishes to save energy. If your dishwasher does not have an automatic air-dry switch, turn off the dishwasher after the final rinse and prop the door open slightly so the dishes will dry faster.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



When bad weather rolls in,  
they roll out.

**We are recognizing April 10 as  
LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY.**

Use #ThankALineman on social media to  
show our linemen your appreciation.

## Updates from Parke Professional Service



***Jerry Stultz and Todd Griffin are the newest members of Parke Professional Service. We are happy to welcome these two men to the PPS crew.***

### SECOND QUARTER TREE AND RIGHT OF WAY TRIM CYCLE BEGINS

Parke Professional Services will be trimming North of Fallen Rock Rd on Hwy 59 to Bellmore. This will include Mansfield, Rocky Fork Lake, Ferndale and from Bellmore to Raccoon Lake. Please contact our office if you have any questions.

