

DECEMBER
2020



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 **Merry
Christmas**
and Happy New Year!

Parke County REMC

Your Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative 

Physical Address:
119 West High Street
Rockville, IN 47872

Bill Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 269
Covington, IN 47932

Email:
info@pcremc.com

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

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

Four Tips for Winter Safety

It's no surprise that winter months bring increased potential for fire risks and electrical safety hazards. This makes sense because during the coldest months, consumers are using additional electrical devices and appliances, like space heaters, electric blankets and portable generators.

The National Fire Protection Association estimates that 47,700 home fires occur each year in the U.S. due to electrical failure or malfunction. These fires result in 418 deaths, 1,570 injuries and \$1.4 billion in property damage annually. This winter, safeguard your loved ones and your home with these electrical safety tips from the Electrical Safety Foundation International.

- 1. Don't overload outlets.** Overloaded outlets are a major cause of residential fires. Avoid using extension cords or multi-outlet converters for appliance connections—they should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. If you're relying heavily on extension cords in general, you may need additional outlets to address your needs. Contact a qualified electrician to inspect your home and add new outlets.
- 2. Never leave space heaters unattended.** If you're using a space heater, turn it off before leaving the room. Make sure heaters are placed at least three

feet away from flammable items. It should also be noted that space heaters take a toll on your energy bills. If you're using them throughout your home, it may be time to upgrade your home heating system.

- 3. Inspect heating pads and electric blankets.** These items cause nearly 500 fires every year. Electric blankets that are more than 10 years old create additional risks for a fire hazard. Inspect your electric blankets and heating pads – look for dark, charred or frayed spots, and make sure the electrical cord is not damaged. Do not place any items on top of a heating pad or electric blanket, and never fold them when in use.
- 4. Use portable generators safely.** Unfortunately, winter storms can cause prolonged power outages, which means many consumers will use portable generators to power their homes. Never connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system. For portable generators, plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator. Start the generator first, before you plug in appliances. Run it in a well-ventilated area outside your home. The carbon monoxide it generates is deadly, so keep it away from your garage, doors, windows and vents.

Local Businesses Receive Rebates for PowerShift® Program Savings

Parke County REMC would like to say "Thank You" to all our members who participate in our PowerShift® load control program, especially our new commercial program members! What an impact their participation has had on the Parke County REMC membership.

The residential side of this program has been in place since the 1980s and has grown over the years. The recent addition of this commercial program has developed into a considerable asset for power quality, efficiency, and peak reduction. These energy peaks happen 2 or 3 times per year, and having the ability to reduce this specific load keeps us from buying that energy when it is most expensive. Working with our C&I (Commercial and Industrial) members has allowed the REMC to identify key equipment on various business sites that can be shut down during peaks and used at a different time when energy costs are lower.

This program was designed to reward participating C&I members with an incentive that reflects the amount of load reduced. The larger the reduction, the larger the incentive. The incredible amount of savings realized with this program has allowed Parke County REMC to share the remainder of the savings with the entire membership. Essentially when our commercial and industrial members move electric use to an off-peak-time—everyone saves!

For questions on how you can participate in this program, please reach out to Jeremy Montgomery, Parke County REMC Energy Advisor (765) 569-3282



Parke County REMC's Chadd Jenkins and Jeremy Montgomery present a rebate check for \$3,237.60 to A&M Blasting.



Parke County REMC's Chadd Jenkins and Jeremy Montgomery present a rebate check for \$492.71 to Future X.



Parke County REMC's Jeremy Montgomery presents a rebate check for \$250.70 to Newlin Welding.



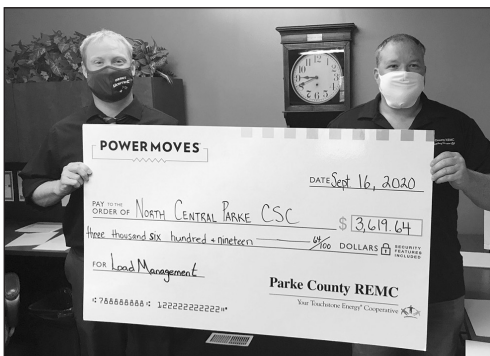
Parke County REMC's Chadd Jenkins presents a rebate check for \$620.54 to Old Hickory Golf Course.



Parke County Aggregates accepts a \$2,967.80 rebate check from Parke County REMC CEO Chadd Jenkins.



Parke County REMC's Chadd Jenkins presents a rebate check for \$9,712.80 to Southwest Parke CSC.



North Central Parke CSC accepts a \$3,619.64 rebate check from Parke County REMC's Jeremy Montgomery.



Scott Pet Products accepts a rebate check for \$9,144.09 from Parke County REMC CEO Chadd Jenkins.

Thank you!

A Season for Giving:

Local FFA Chapters Compete in Food Drive

In October, Parke County REMC hosted a food drive competition between Parke Heritage and Riverton Parke High Schools. Both schools were asked to bring in nonperishable food items and hygiene products to benefit the Parke County Food Pantry and the Parke County Resource Center. The school that brought in the most donations would be awarded a \$500 donation for their FFA Chapter.

Both schools did a great job of utilizing their social media accounts to get the community involved and even hosted competitions between classrooms to collect as many items as possible. Each school collected and donated an entire truckload of items. Parke Heritage FFA and Riverton Parke FFA each received a \$500 donation for their great efforts and community service!



Parke County REMC CEO Chadd Jenkins (left) presents a check for \$500 to the Parke Heritage FFA chapter, for their effort in the recent food drive to benefit Parke County Food Pantry and the Parke County Resource Center.



Parke County REMC CEO Chadd Jenkins (far right) presents a check for \$500 to the Riverton Parke FFA chapter, for their effort in the recent food drive to benefit Parke County Food Pantry and the Parke County Resource Center.

STUDENT PROGRAMS



SCHOLARSHIPS

Parke County REMC member's children, who will be attending accredited colleges or a trade school as first-year students in the fall of 2021 are eligible to apply for one of seven scholarships, each worth \$1,000. One scholarship is awarded to each of our 7 districts. Students' parents/guardians must be full time residents of the Parke County REMC service area.

Applications and additional eligibility requirements are available at our website, www.pcremc.com/scholarship-application. Students must submit the completed application, an essay and an academic report completed by their guidance counselor by Jan 15.

YOUTH TOUR TO D.C. and TOUCHSTONE ENERGY CAMP

After careful deliberation, the Touchstone Energy Camp Committee and Youth Tour Committee decided that for the safety and well-being of our students, chaperones, and staff, these youth programs for 2021 have been canceled.

Visit pcremc.com to stay up to date on the many programs and services offered by your REMC.

Meter Project Update

Parke County REMC is continuing to make great progress in updating our metering system. Over 10,000 of nearly 12,500 meters have been replaced, along with new communication equipment across our service territory. The projected completion date is 2021.

As we continue the process of updating our equipment, please note that all trucks will be properly identified with a company logo, and all field personnel will have our Parke County REMC logo on their clothing to identify them as an employee. Our employees will be working in Sylvania, Tangier, and areas surrounding Turkey Run State Park for the next couple of months.

Please contact our office with any questions or concerns at 765-569-3133 or 800-537-3913.

Do we have money for you?

We have a list of members or former members who should be receiving a refund. We have been unable to deliver these funds due to insufficient addresses on file for these members. We are adding a link called "Undeliverable Checks" to our website, www.pcremc.com. Please check the link to see if you or someone you know is on the list.



Behind the Switch: Parke County REMC Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors for Parke County REMC met on Thursday, June 18.

The board modified and approved two policies. Safety metrics for 2019 were reported and reviewed well. Parke County REMC's Energy Advisor, Jeremy Montgomery, reviewed member solar installation and led a discussion around the member interconnection process.

The Board of Directors for Parke County REMC met on Thursday, July 16.

Two policies were modified and approved. Manager of Operations, Mike Jeffries, reported on monthly and year to date outage metrics. Overall, outage numbers for 2020 are lower when compared to 2019.

The Board of Directors for Parke County REMC met on Thursday, August 20.

Member Rules and Regulations were reviewed and modified. Betty Winters, Manager of Finance and Administration, provided a monthly and quarterly financial update for the cooperative.

The Board of Directors for Parke County REMC met on Thursday, September 17.

Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) provided a presentation and discussion concerning the Cost of Service Study

(COS). The COS utilized the 2020 budgeted expenses in conjunction with 2019-member usage data. Carolyn Kilby, Manager of Marketing/Communications and Office Services, provided an update regarding member delinquent accounts.

The Board of Directors for Parke County REMC met on Thursday, October 15.

Four policies were modified and approved. Mike Jeffries, Manager of Operations, presented a request for approval regarding the purchase of a new digger truck in 2021; the request was approved.

Upcoming Meetings:

The December (2020), January (2021), and February (2021) board meetings for the Parke County REMC board of directors are scheduled for the following Thursdays: December 17, January 21, and February 18.

Upcoming Holiday Office Closings

Christmas Eve – Dec. 24
Christmas Day – Dec. 25
New Year's Day – Jan. 1

Stultz Retires After 21 Years at Parke County REMC

Parke County REMC would like to announce the retirement of Greg Stultz. Greg started at Parke County REMC in 1999 and has served as an Electrician and Supervisor of the Metering Department. We would like to thank Greg for his 21 years of dedicated service and congratulate him on retirement!

Pictured from left to right: Chadd Jenkins (CEO), Greg Stultz and Mike Jeffries (Manager of Operations).

