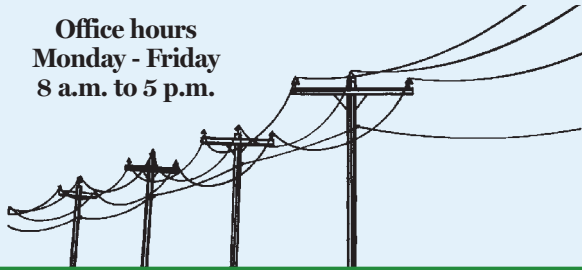


Office hours
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 100 Malinta, OH 43535
Office Calls: 419-256-7900
www.tricountyelectriccoop.coop



TRUSTEES

Steve Hoffman	President
Lawrence Weirch	Vice President
Bradley Haupricht Sr.....	Secretary/Treasurer
Kenneth Brubaker	Johney Ritz
Dustin Sonnenberg	John Schuchert

EMPLOYEES

Brett Perkins, Manager	Craig Wilson
Doug Hall	Jason Warnimont
Sue Bockelman	Jeremy Warnimont
Chris Okuley	Tom Jones
Sandy Corey	Deb Stuller

To report a power outage: 888-256-9858

Your call will be answered by the Cooperative Response Center. Give them the name on your account, service address and a telephone number where you can be reached.

They will dispatch a line crew to restore service.

Be sure to check your fuse or breaker system before reporting a power outage.

Jackpot news!

Neither **Marry Bishop** of rural Leipsic nor **Jeffrey Weis** of Liberty Center reported spotting their hidden account number in the November issue of *Country Living*. Had either done so, he or she would have won half the jackpot and received a check for \$40.

Your account number is on your bill statement. Disregard the zeros at the left in the number, but consider any zeros to the right when converting your number to words.

The hidden account numbers always are in Tricounty's local pages of the magazine. The jackpot now stands at \$80. So read *Country Living*, find your hidden account number, report it and win!

At least once a year, we print the Continuity of Service notice listed below. We encourage you to carefully read this notice. While we strive to furnish you with a continuous supply of electricity, it is impossible to guarantee you will have electricity 100 percent of the time. Vehicles hitting poles, high winds, trees falling into the lines, animals and birds contacting the lines, people cutting trees that "fall the wrong way," lightning and other causes can disrupt power to just a few co-op members or several hundred at one time. One One Zero Two Two Zero Two

Continuity of Service

The cooperative shall use reasonable diligence in furnishing a regular and uninterrupted supply of electric power and energy but does not guarantee uninterrupted service. The cooperative shall not be liable for damages or other losses in case such supply is interrupted, curtailed, reduced, fluctuates, becomes irregular or fails, or if the commencement thereof is delayed by reason of an act of God, public enemy, accidents, labor disputes, orders or acts of civil or military authority, governmental action, loss of power supply, breakdowns or injury to the generator(s), machinery, distribution or transmission line(s) or other facilities of the cooperative, or any other cause beyond its control; provided, however, that in no event shall the cooperative be liable for personal injury, wrongful death, property damage or other losses not caused by or due to the gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct of the cooperative; and in no event shall the cooperative be liable for consequential damages of any nature whatsoever in case such supply of power and energy should be interrupted, curtailed, reduced, fluctuate, become irregular; and provided further that the failure of the customer to receive electric power and energy because of any of the aforesaid conditions shall not relieve the customer of its obligation to make payments to the cooperative as provided herein for electric service.

High School Seniors

Are your parents members of
Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative?



You could win a college, vocational or
technical school scholarship up to:

\$4,250

- Available in both boys' and girls' divisions
- First-place Tricounty scholarship: \$850
- First-place Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives scholarship: \$3,400
- Runners-up in each competition also will receive scholarships of \$550
- Applications due **Feb. 6** to Tricounty's office

See details below!

Tricounty to award \$2,800 in four scholarships

Tricounty will sponsor two \$850 scholarships and two \$550 scholarships for high school seniors this year. Winners of the \$850 scholarships may have an opportunity to participate in the statewide judging described above.

To enter Tricounty's scholarship competition, high school seniors must:

1. Live within Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative's service area and their parents receive service from Tricounty.
2. Have a 3.50 or higher grade-point average through the first semester of his/her senior year.
3. Download an application on Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives' website at www.ohioruralelectric.coop/youth/scholarships/ or contact Tricounty's office to request one via mail.
4. Submit the completed application to Tricounty's office by Feb. 6.

Any applicant who has received a full-tuition scholarship, including room and board and books, to the school of his/her choice is not eligible for a Tricounty scholarship.

HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS:



YOUTH TOUR 2015

Interested in a life-changing leadership experience ... in Washington, D.C.?

June 12-18

While on the Tour, you'll visit:

- Gettysburg, Pa.
- World War II Memorial
- Jefferson Memorial
- White House
- United States Capitol
- Supreme Court
- Smithsonian Institution
- Lincoln Memorial
- Vietnam Memorial
- Washington National Cathedral
- Arlington National Cemetery
- ... and much more!

What is Youth Tour?

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is an annual leadership program coordinated by Tricounty and its statewide service organization, Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc. It's a weeklong, all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., that gives exceptional high school students the opportunity to meet with their Congressional leaders at the U.S. Capitol, make new friends from across the country and see many of the famous Washington sights.

Electric cooperatives from 43 states will send about 1,600 students this year for the annual tour. *Will you be one of them?*

To apply for the Youth Tour ...

Successful applicants:

- must be a high school sophomore or junior.
- must be a son, daughter or legal ward of a Tricounty member living on the cooperative's lines and receiving electric service from the cooperative at the time of selection.

How will the finalist be chosen?

Tricounty will sponsor one student on the Youth Tour. Interested students should complete and return a test on rural electric cooperatives to Tricounty by **March 31**.



Yes! I am interested in hearing how I can be part of the trip to Washington, D.C., this summer.

Name _____

Address _____

ZIP _____ Phone _____

Sophomore Junior

Mail to:

**Tricounty REC, Inc.
P.O. Box 100
Malinta, OH 43535**

5 tips for space-heater safety

BY APRIL LOLLAR

SPACE HEATERS CAN BE a good alternative for those who want to warm one area of their home without turning up the thermostat on the central heating system. But space heaters are also responsible for 32 percent of house fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association. If you plan to use a space heater in your home this winter, review these tips from Tricounty to keep you, your family and your property safe.

Materials. What are the components of your space heater made of? Parts like metal grating can be hot to the touch and might burn anyone who gets too close. Make sure you purchase a heater that is cool to the touch and has guards over the coils in case fingers get too close.

Placement. While it can be tempting to place a small heater on a shelf so it is not in the way of pets and children, it is safest to leave the heater on a level, nonflammable floor surface. Keeping the space heater on the floor can keep it from falling over, which prevents fire hazards. Also, remember that space heaters and bathrooms are not a good combination, unless the heater is designed for bathroom use. Moisture can damage the heater.

The most important rule about space heater placement is the 3-foot rule. Whether in the bedroom, living room or kitchen, space heaters should always be kept 3 feet away from flammable materials and out of the way of children and pets.

Special features. Does your space heater have automatic shut-off if it tips over? Auto shut-off can be a lifesaver. If you own a space heater without auto shut-off, consider replacing it with one that has this important safety feature.

Cords. You should never use an extension cord when plugging in a space heater because it can cause overheating. The space heater should be plugged directly into a wall outlet and should be the only thing plugged in to the wall outlet. Also, make sure cords aren't in a high-traffic area so they are not a tripping hazard.

Use. Never leave a heater unattended while in use. Be sure to unplug the unit before leaving home or going to bed. ☹

Five Two Eight Three Zero Zero Two

April Lollar writes for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Did you know?

Space heaters are responsible for 32 percent of house fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association.



- * Place your space heater on a level, non-flammable surface.
- * Make sure your space heater has an auto shut-off function.
- * Never pair your space heater with an extension cord.
- * Never leave a space heater unattended when in use.
- * Purchase space heaters that are cool to the touch.

