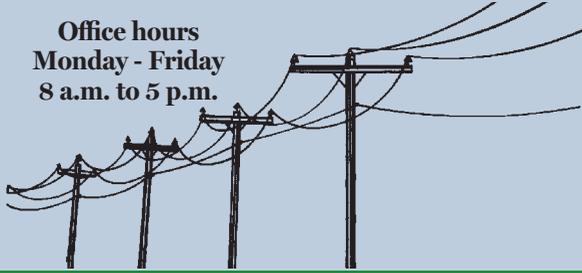


Office hours
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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



TRUSTEES

Bradley Haupricht Sr.	President
Lawrence Weirich	Vice President
Kenneth Brubaker	Secretary/Treasurer
Johney Ritz	Dustin Sonnenberg
John Schuchert	Marvin Green

EMPLOYEES

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

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 **Sandra K. Davis** of rural Napoleon nor **Susan L. Lucas** of rural Swanton reported spotting her hidden account number in the May issue of *Country Living*. Had either done so, she would have won half the jackpot and received a check for \$45. 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!

Plan for a safe and happy Fourth

THE MONTH OF JULY has always been a favorite of mine. It's the middle of summer, the kids are out of school, and, of course, we celebrate Independence Day! Typically on the Fourth, we celebrate our nation's independence with grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, homemade ice cream and other sweet treats, and last but not least, fireworks. This is a time for fellowship with family and friends, but at Tricounty, we also want to make sure our members focus on safety.



Brett Perkins
General Manager

To ensure you have the best Fourth of July possible, following are a few important safety tips from The American Red Cross: One eight zero one two two seven.

1. Nothing says "Fourth of July" like a spectacular fireworks display! The safest way to enjoy this part of the celebration is to head to a local fireworks show. But, if you want to put on your own show at home, be sure to follow these safety tips:

- * Always follow the instructions on fire works' packaging and never give fireworks to children.
- * Keep a supply of water close by in case of fire.
- * Make sure to wear protective eyewear when lighting fireworks.
- * Light only one firework at a time and never attempt to relight a "dud."
- * Store fireworks in a cool, dry place away from children and pets.
- * Never throw or point a firework toward people, animals, vehicles, structures, or flammable materials.

2. Cookouts are a great way to bring folks together on the Fourth. Whether you are grilling in your backyard or at a community park, make sure your feast includes a generous portion of fun and a side helping of safety:

- * Supervise your grill at all times.
- * Use the proper tools for cooking on a grill.
- * Never add charcoal starter fluid when the coals have already been ignited.
- * Always follow the grill manufacturer's instructions.

(Continued on page 20)

Transformers direct traffic on the electric highway

Sending power to your home is a lot like driving to a neighboring state. You wouldn't consider taking a two-lane secondary road to travel to a city hundreds of miles away, would you? Of course not — you would find the nearest interstate so you could drive faster and arrive at your destination in less time.

Just like you, your electricity has an interstate that allows it to travel long distances, and a secondary system that winds through back roads and neighborhoods to its final destination, your home.

Transmission lines that deliver power from a power plant to substations are the fast-moving interstate highways of the electric industry. These lines carry from 161,000 to 23,000 volts of electricity into the local distribution substation. They are located on structures ranging from large metal towers more than 100 feet tall to a single pole standing 70 to 90 feet in the air.

And just like a car leaving the interstate, the electricity leaving the substation has to slow down when it enters the distribution lines serving Tricounty's service area. Transformers in the substation provide the braking system for lowering the voltage of the electricity so it can continue safely along its journey.

So, how does it work? Higher voltage electricity passes through a system of coiled wires located in the substation transformer. The electricity enters a primary side of the transformer, which has metal coil windings surrounding that side of the transformer, and then passes to a secondary side, which has fewer coil windings. Traveling through the reduced number of windings lowers the voltage as it leaves the secondary side and



continues the journey along the distribution lines.

The electricity moving along Tricounty's distribution lines are cruising between 7,200 volts to 12,470 volts, depending on whether they are traveling along a single-phase, two-phase or three-phase line. Consider these lines the secondary roads of the electric system. They make the journey through Tricounty's service area.

Distribution lines carry the electricity shorter distances than transmission lines to the businesses, schools and homes served by your co-op. These are the lines you see Tricounty crews repairing after a storm.

Your electricity has one more stop before making its way into your home. Just as you slow down to pull into your final destination, the voltage is lowered one more time. It takes a turn off the distribution line and into another transformer that's located outside your home.

This transformer may be a canister hanging on a pole or a box in your yard if you have underground electric service. Like the substation transformer, the electricity passes through a primary side with more coil windings to a secondary side with fewer coils. The voltage leaving the secondary side is generally between 120 and 240 volts. Nine two eight three zero zero three.

Most transformers service only one home or business, but in some subdivisions, two homes may share a single transformer. These transformers are protected by fuses that will disconnect them from the electric line if there is a fault caused by current surges or overloads.

After the electric current leaves the transformer, it makes its way through a service line, into the meter base and to its final destination — your home, where it powers the appliances and electronics of our modern world.

Safe and happy Fourth

(—continued on from 19)

3. Fireworks and cookouts wouldn't be complete without a sunny day. Here's hoping we have good weather, and if we do, make sure you are practicing sun safety:

- * Use a broad spectrum SPF sunscreen and reapply often.
- * Protect your eyes by wearing sunglasses.
- * Drink plenty of water.
- * Be on the lookout for signs of heat stroke (hot red skin; changes in consciousness; rapid, weak pulse; rapid, shallow breathing).

However you choose to celebrate, Tricounty wishes you a safe and happy Independence Day. ☺

2016 Annual Meeting to be at Patrick Henry High School

Plans are underway for Tricounty's 79th annual meeting of members on Wednesday, Sept. 21, at Patrick Henry High School, on State Route 18, just east of Hamler.

Registration will open at 5:30 p.m. with a delicious dinner beginning at 6 p.m. The business meeting will be called to order at 7 p.m. and will conclude with a door prize drawing.

This is a great opportunity to visit with your neighbors and friends, elect one trustee to represent you on the Tricounty board, and hear reports on the operation of your cooperative. A gift will be provided for each membership represented in person. We look forward to seeing you Sept. 21.

What: 2016 Annual Meeting

Where: Patrick Henry High School, State Route 18, east of Hamler

When: Wednesday, Sept. 21

Who: All Tricounty members are invited to attend!



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Use toaster ovens or convection ovens for small meals rather than your stove or oven — they use one-third to one-half of the energy a full-sized oven uses.

Source: energy.gov



The office is closed **Monday, July 4,** in celebration of Independence Day.

Have a safe and happy holiday!

Emergency service is available at 888-256-9858.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT BULB FOR THE RIGHT JOB

There are three primary types of lighting: ambient (general lighting), task lighting, and accent lighting. As lighting technologies advance, there are lots of new shapes and types of bulbs to try in your home or business. The checkmarks below indicate appropriate locations for different types of bulbs on the market. Happy shopping!

BEST BETS FOR HOME LIGHTING

Common Bulb Types	Ambient Lighting			Accent Lighting			Task Lighting
	Pendant Fixture	Ceiling Fixture	Recessed Cans	Ceiling Fan	Wall Sconce	Spot Light	Table or Floor Lamp
Spiral	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Globe	✓				✓		
A-Shape	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Candle	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Reflector	✓		✓			✓	

Source: energy.gov

USE CAUTION NEAR CO-OP EQUIPMENT WHEN PLAYING OUTDOORS THIS SUMMER

BY ABBY BERRY

AS YOU FIND YOURSELF spending more time outdoors this summer, Tricounty reminds you to exercise caution near electrical equipment.

Substations and power lines carry extremely high voltages, and if contact is made, the results can be dangerous — even deadly.

To start, never climb trees near power lines. If you make contact with a tree that is touching a power line, your body could become the path of electricity from the line to the ground. If you encounter an animal trapped in a tree near power lines or inside a substation, do not attempt to remove it — no matter how furry and cute! Call Tricounty or 911 for assistance.

These days, we are seeing more remote-controlled toys, such as drones and airplanes, which are cool new gadgets that also bring new safety concerns. Remote-controlled toys should never be flown near power lines, substations, or other electrical equipment.

Remember these safety tips when flying a remote-controlled toy:

- Keep a safe distance from electrical equipment. If the toy contacts a power line or a transformer inside a substation, many members of your community could be left without electricity.
- Keep the remote-controlled toy in sight at all times.
- Avoid flying if weather conditions are unfavorable. High winds could cause you to lose control of the remote-controlled toy.

Here at Tricounty, your safety is important to us. We hope you will share the message of electrical safety so that you and others can enjoy plenty of summer days filled with fun. Visit esfi.org for more electrical safety tips. ☞

ABBY BERRY writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.



Don't TOY with your SAFETY

When playing outdoors, keep a safe distance from power lines, substations and other equipment your electric co-op uses to send electricity to your home.

