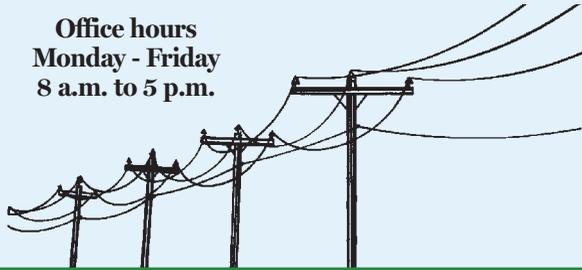


Office hours  
Monday - Friday  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



# Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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



## TRUSTEES

Steven Hoffman.....	President
Lawrence Weirich .....	Vice President
Bradley Haupricht Sr.....	Secretary/Treasurer
Kenneth Brubaker	Johne Ritz
Dustin Sonnenberg	John Schuchert

## EMPLOYEES

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

### 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 **Virginia Thomas** of rural Neapolis nor **Ranzy Brown** of rural Malinta reported spotting their hidden account number in the March issue of *Country Living*. Had either done so, they would have won half the jackpot and received a check for **\$25**.

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 \$70. So read *Country Living*, find your hidden account number, report it and win!

## Farewell, winter — welcome, spring

THE WINTER OF 2013-14 brought with it record amounts of snowfall, extremely cold temperatures and harsh winds. Tricounty's system made it through this past winter with minimal damage and very few outages. Reliability, for a large part, is credited to the efforts of the line crew performing annual maintenance and construction on the system. Some of these projects include replacing older lines and poles, right-of-way clearing of trees away from the power lines, pole testing, transformer inspections, transformer upgrades, substation improvements and meter testing.

In 2014, we will begin investing in a new meter system to improve the reliability and efficiency of the existing electric distribution system even further as we work to provide safe, affordable and reliable electricity to our members. Installation is scheduled to begin in May 2014 and will take several years to complete. The impact of the installation is minimal. Co-op members can expect to lose power for just a few minutes on the day of installation. In addition, the next bill will show two meter readings: one from the old meter and one from the new meter. The benefits from the new meter system include faster response to outages, more efficient power distribution — helping us keep costs down for members— fewer outages, fewer spikes and blinks, more accurate information about outages and better detection of power thefts.

Tricounty is a member-owned, not-for-profit utility. We are working hard to keep our system as reliable as possible by investing in maintenance and more-efficient technology.

As spring arrives, summer moves in and you venture back outside to do maintenance and construction projects of your own, we ask that you please be safe around power lines and call 811 to get underground lines marked before you dig — it's always free. Also, please remember to slow down when approaching line crews that are working along the roadways. Six Five Four Two Zero Zero Four

If you have any questions about your cooperative, please feel free to contact our office at 419-256-7900. ☎

## Spring cleaning delivers safe, reliable power

SPRING GIVES US A CHANCE to thaw out after a chilly winter. I take advantage of longer daylight hours by doing a little spring cleaning and yard work.

But the seasonal shift isn't all good news. The rapid change from harsh, cold air to warmer temperatures can trigger severe weather. To protect our lines and keep power flowing safely to your home, Tricounty maintains our rights-of-way. Think of it as spring cleaning for power lines.

Right-of-way (ROW) maintenance keeps tree limbs and other obstacles away from high-voltage power lines. It's an important part of the service we provide to you, our members, for three reasons: safety, reliability and cost.

Our primary concern is the safety of our workers and members. Properly maintained ROW keeps our crews safe when they are restoring service and maintaining our system. Keeping trees clear of power lines also keeps your family safe. From making sure a child's tree house doesn't hit power lines to creating a safe environment while doing yard

work, a well-maintained ROW helps avoid tragedy.

Power lines are a constant part of our landscape; it's easy to forget they are around. We work hard to keep the area around our lines clear, but we need your help. Be alert this spring. Don't plant trees or tall vegetation under power lines, and keep an eye out for power lines when working in your yard.

If severe spring weather blows through, a well-maintained ROW leads to fewer outages and faster response time. Trees are less of a threat. When trees do fall, crews are able to restore service more quickly than they could with poorly maintained areas.

As a not-for-profit company, Tricounty strives to keep costs affordable for you, our members. Maintaining our ROW is an important part of controlling costs. Fewer and shorter outages save money for everyone. When crews work in well-maintained areas, we can reduce risks for employees and equipment, too — another way to keep costs low.

Safety, reliability and cost: This is why we believe in ROW spring cleaning. If we compromise on one of these areas, it affects the others. At Tricounty, we aren't willing to compromise. Maintaining ROW is a priority for your safety, comfort and pocketbook. ☞



**Brett Perkins**  
General Manager



### Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

A well-designed landscape provides both energy efficiency and curb appeal for your home. The type of vegetation you choose is as important as where it is planted. Sunlight streaming through windows and bearing down on the roof can drive up air conditioner use. Using shade trees and shrubs in your landscaping plan can help reduce cooling costs. In the winter, deciduous trees lose their leaves and let in warmth.

Source: Energy.gov

Tricounty  
Rural Electric  
will be closed  
Monday,  
May 26, in  
observance of  
Memorial Day.



EMERGENCY SERVICE IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE  
24 HOURS A DAY BY CALLING 888-256-9858.

## HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

Tricounty Rural Electric  
Cooperative extends our best  
wishes to all moms

as they  
enjoy their  
special  
day on  
May 11.



## Practical pointers for National Electrical Safety Month

MAY IS NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH, and Tricounty is joining with the Electrical Safety Foundation International to raise awareness about potential home electrical hazards and the importance of electrical safety. This year's campaign, "Back to the Basics," challenges consumers to make home electrical safety assessments a priority.

According to the Consumer Electronics Association, the average home today has a minimum of three televisions, two DVD players, at least one digital camera, one desktop computer and two cellphones.

"Modern homes run on electricity, but if you don't properly maintain your electrical products, they can create hazards," warns Brett Perkins, Tricounty general manager. "The good news is that eliminating electrical hazards from your home doesn't have to be difficult or expensive."

Many homes and their electrical systems were built before most modern-day home electronics and appliances were even invented. Today's increased demand for energy can overburden an older home's electrical system.

Tricounty offers the following tips to help identify and eliminate electrical hazards to protect yourself, your family and your home:

- Make sure entertainment centers and computer equipment have plenty of space around them for ventilation.
- Use extension cords as a temporary solution and never as a permanent power supply.
- Do not place extension cords in high traffic areas, under carpets or across walkways, where they pose a potential tripping hazard.
- Use a surge protector to protect your computer and other electronic equipment from damage caused by voltage changes.
- Heavy reliance on power strips is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have additional outlets installed by a qualified, licensed electrician.
- Keep liquids, including drinks, away from electrical items such as televisions and computers.

Electrical safety awareness and education among consumers, families, employees and communities will prevent electrical fires, injuries and fatalities. ☞

*The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) sponsors National Electrical Safety Month each May to increase public awareness of the electrical hazards around us at home, work, school and play. ESFI is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated exclusively to promoting electrical safety. For more information about ESFI and electrical safety, visit [www.electrical-safety.org](http://www.electrical-safety.org).*

## Unclaimed capital credits

On Dec. 16, 2013, capital credits refund checks were mailed to people who were patrons of the cooperative in the year 1999. Some of them were returned due to outdated addresses. Please review this list, and if you know the whereabouts of any of these people, have them or their heirs contact our office at 419-256-7900 so these unclaimed checks can be forwarded to the right person. Two Seven Seven Zero Zero Three

Marc J. Alexander	Jamie K. Kuser
American Tower Corp.	Holly Lavoie
Thomas D. Badenhop	Jon A. Lee
William Bayton	Merle C. Lieb
James L. Bennett	Michael E. Mackey
Todd Bischoff	Sondra J. Majerowski
James Boman	John M. Martinez
Monique Botjer-Gehring	Harold Mayle
Robert E. Braun	MCI Worldcom
Robert D. Brewer	Robert B. Meyers
Brenden G. Brophy	McQuillin Moses LTD
Suzanne C. Brown	Benjamin J. Moss
Lynn M. Busdiecker	Vikki S. Mumford
Cablecom Time Warner	Cathy M. Myers
Joseph R. Click	Elizabeth Napier
Karen L. Clifford	Robert E. Paul II
John C. Cobb	Raymond M. Perkins
Brenda K. Cowell	Kurt A. Reinhart
Thomas E. Cox	Charles A. Robertson
Richard Cremeans	Tammy L. Rood
Mary B. Crigger	Jeffrey J. Rutkowski
Mary Ellen Davis	Danny E. Schetter
Delta Steel Products	Shannon Scott
David W. Dicken	John Shearman
Al Dohm	Michael F. Sheridan
Mary A. Domonkos	Christopher L. Smith
Phyllis A. Duggan	Larry D. Sparks Jr.
James E. Eastmann	Tyrone D. Sprague
Richard C. Fuller	Walter Starrett
James A. Gibbons	Karl D. Stetson
John A. Graham	James Stull
GTE Telephone Operations	Chris J. Sutton
Stephen C. Gunter	Thomas Switala
Jacob Harvey	Susan Thomas
Darwin E. Heldman	Jeff Tussing
Benjamin Hendricks	Susan K. Wannamacher
Wes J. Hill	Bryan Ward
Arthur T. Ingmire Jr.	Scott L. Weaver
Marla K. Johnston	John D. Welch
Thomas W. Kemper	Noel F. Wells
Lynette Kennedy	Sarah A. Westrick
Deanna L. Kimball	Kenneth E. Ziegler
Elizabeth Kimbler	Henry G. Zeller
Aaron C. Koder	Joseph Ziarko

UNDERSTANDING ENERGY

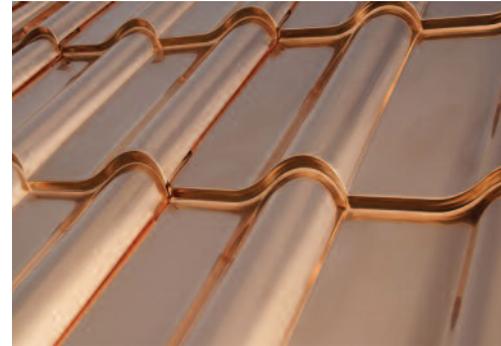
# Cool energy bills with metal roofing

BY B. DENISE HAWKINS

ASPHALT SHINGLES ARE STILL the norm in most regions, but the next roof over your head could be an energy-saving metal one made of stainless steel and painted to reflect the sun's hot rays. Thomas Jefferson chose metal roofing to shelter Monticello, his Virginia estate. Centuries later, historians say, Jefferson's "tin" roof "is in fine shape."

Metal roofing retailers and manufacturers say that kind of durability is a strong selling point for a growing band of homeowners who want a building material that is not only sustainable, energy efficient and cost effective, but also nicer looking than asphalt. Today, consumers can select metals from copper to

zinc. They can also choose roofing styles ranging from traditional vertical seams to those that resemble wood shake, slate, shingles and clay tiles. A multi-year study conducted by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory's Building Technology Center, which is part of the U.S. Department of Energy, suggests that replacing conventional asphalt roofs with metal ones can reduce air conditioning energy use by up to 25 percent.



Gleaming copper shaped like barrel tile forms this home's new roof.

Source: Metal Roofing Alliance

Wondering whether your house should be clad with a metal roof?

## ENERGY

STAR offers

this guidance: Homes that are hampered with high air-conditioning bills, have large roof surfaces and lower levels of insulation, and are located in hot, sunny climates benefit the most from metal roofing. Painted metal roofs, also known as "cool metal roofs," are designed to reflect more sunlight and absorb less heat than a standard roof. Special reflective color pigments in the paint make that possible. But whether using white or a darker paint color, heat will still reflect well and help reduce cooling loads in the summer and insulate homes during the winter.

With metal roofs, there are also other ways for homeowners to save money over time, but the initial purchase price can be a factor. The cost for using metal roofing systems in home renovations or in new residential construction is higher than most other roofing materials, according to manufacturers. But compared to traditional dark gray asphalt shingles and other nonmetal roofs that last on average 17 years and require replacing about every decade or two, metal roofs last longer. The lifespan of metal roofs is about two to three times longer, and the product is virtually maintenance-free, says William "Bill" Hippard, chairman of the nonprofit Metal Roofing Alliance, a coalition dedicated to educating consumers about the benefits of modern metal roofing. ☞

**May really brings out the garage sales. Lots of garage sales. And while you may be anxious to have everything ready for the big sale, we ask that you take a moment and read the following notice about not posting on power poles. We know they are convenient, but nailing signs on power poles can also be very dangerous for our linemen.**

## Please don't post signs on power poles

Working on power lines can be a dangerous job. Poles do get hit and broken and sometimes must be changed out at night so power can be restored in the area. Handling these poles and the others that must be changed out can be a hazard in the daytime when nails and staples are left behind from all types of signs people have nailed to the poles. It is even more hazardous at night when it is not so easy to see the nails and staples that can puncture safety gloves and tear the linemen's protective clothing and may result in injury. Linemen are on the job to assure you quality, efficient, dependable electric service.

Show them you care. Don't use power poles to post signs and posters. Occasionally we find garage sale, no hunting, property for sale and all types of signs nailed to the poles. Some are very nice signs. We will call and ask the owner of the signs to remove them, rather than our destroying them if we take them down. If the signs are not removed by the owner, we will remove them.

