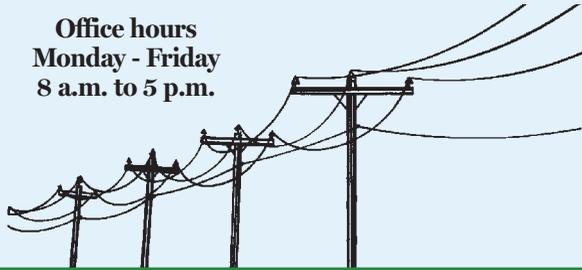


Office hours
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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	Johney Ritz
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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 **Christopher Bostelman** of rural Liverty Center nor **William Furlong** of rural Swanton reported spotting his hidden account number in the November issue of *Country Living*. Had either done so, he would have won half the jackpot and received a check for \$55.

Your account number is on your bill statement. Disregard the zeros at the left in the number, but consider any zeros at the right in the number 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 \$120. So read *Country Living*, find your hidden account number, report it and win!

Winter weather and holiday energy use

THE HOLIDAY SEASON is full of cheer and family togetherness. It is also a time for extra energy use. A homeowner's energy bill can escalate because so many appliances are used during the holidays.

Please keep in mind that the holidays only come around once a year; therefore, if you normally conserve electricity, it will be one of the highest bills of the year due to the change in your everyday use. Consider the following scenarios that more than likely contributed to your higher-than-normal bill.

- School's out and your children were home for winter break. Because they're normally at school, your television, stove, lights, computers and game systems that are normally off were probably on.

- Did you host the family celebrations? Stoves and ovens are going almost constantly during the holiday season. Seven Eight Four Zero Zero One.

- Christmas lights are a major contributor to rising power costs during the holiday season. Everyone likes looking at the lights on the tree or around the house, but if they're left on for too long, costs add up.

- Did you have family staying for the holidays? Keeping the house comfortable for visiting family can sometimes be difficult, especially if they are not used to our Ohio winters. Heating can be a huge power drain if you use electric heaters. Turning up the thermostat makes your furnace run harder, which is the quickest way to increase energy use.

- If you had a house full of family, chances are that the water heater was running more than usual thanks to more showers and laundry. Having family and friends over during the holidays is a blessing, but may increase your energy consumption.

Remember when you open your electric bill that it may reflect your holiday energy use. Energy cost and rates are often blamed for what is usually a change in everyday habits when the weather turns cold and Christmas lights twinkle. ☺



Brett Perkins
General Manager

High School Seniors

Are your parents members of an electric cooperative?

You could win a college, vocational
or technical school scholarship of

\$3,200

Contact Tricounty Electric
for details on how to enter.



Second place	\$2,200
Third place	\$1,800
Fourth place	\$1,700
Fifth place	\$1,600
Sixth place	\$1,500
Seventh place	\$1,400
Eighth place	\$1,300
Ninth place	\$1,200

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, a high school senior must:

1. Live within Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative's service area and have parents who 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 the Ohio Rural Electric Cooperative's website at www.ohioruralelectric.coop or contact Tricounty's office to request one via mail.
4. Submit the completed application to Tricounty's office by Feb. 7.
5. 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 scholarship from Tricounty.

High school sophomores and juniors – You could win the trip of a lifetime!

What is Youth Tour?

It's not just another trip! Youth Tour is an annual contest sponsored by the Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc., and your local electric cooperative that gives deserving high school sophomores and juniors the opportunity to use their knowledge and wit to compete for a FREE weeklong trip to Washington, D.C.

You'll meet up with 1,600 of these students in Washington, D.C., in June if you win. Once there, you'll get a chance to meet and talk to congressional leaders from Ohio at the U.S. Capitol and see many of the famous sights.



June 13-19



What are the entry requirements?

You must be a high school sophomore or junior, and your parents or legal guardian must be members of Tricounty REC. Selected students should be energetic and eager to make the most out of this opportunity.

While on the Tour you can visit:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Gettysburg | Kennedy Center |
| WWII Memorial | White House |
| Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial | Supreme Court |
| Jefferson Memorial | Hard Rock Cafe |
| Mt. Vernon | Library of Congress |
| National Portrait Gallery | Smithsonian |
| Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum | Lincoln Memorial |
| Ford's Theater | Vietnam Memorial |
| Boat cruise on the Potomac | National Zoo |
| Capitol Hill | National Cathedral |
| | Arlington National Cemetery |

How will the finalists 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**

Keep winter energy bills in check

MAKING YOUR HOME MORE energy efficient doesn't have to empty your wallet. In fact, trying a few low- or no-cost improvement measures might keep it fuller, thanks to a lower electric bill. As the winter chill gets even colder, keep these tips and tricks in mind:

- **Strategic drapery:** Keep shades and drapes open during the day to catch the sun's rays, but close them at night to keep heat inside.

- **Thermostat settings:** Set your thermostat as low as is comfortable, and consider adding a layer of clothing instead of bumping up the temperature. The caveat here is if you have a heat pump — set the thermostat as low as you can without having the expensive backup heat kick on.

- **Seal the cracks:** "One of the quickest energy- and money-saving tasks you can do is caulk, seal, and weather strip all seams, cracks, and openings to the outside," according to the U.S. Department of Energy's EnergySavers guide.

- **Fan it up:** Reverse the rotation of ceiling fan blades to create an updraft and forcing warm air back down.

- **Free vents:** Your HVAC (heating, ventilation and cooling) system will have to work twice as hard if your air registers and vents are blocked by rugs, furniture, or drapes. Keep them clear to allow air to flow freely.

- **Cool food:** Recommended temperature settings

are 34°-37° F, and 5° F for the freezer (deep freezers should go to 0°F).

- **Water heater savings:** Heating water accounts for about 18 percent of your home's energy use. Set your water heater temperature no higher than 120°F, which makes comfortable hot water for most uses.

- **Turn it off:** Don't leave lights or electronics on in empty rooms. One Seven Six Zero Zero Zero Four

These tips and more are available at EnergySavers.gov. ☺

Source: EnergySavers.gov



Keep your home's thermostat set as low as comfort allows. If you have a heat pump, set it as low as possible without causing the backup heat source to turn on. Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

Tricounty launches new website

TRICOUNTY RURAL ELECTIC IS delighted to announce our new website, featuring a fresh look for both mobile and desktop browsing to serve all of our member's needs.

We hope that you enjoy discovering the new website and that you find it easy to navigate and use.

While perusing the site, you will notice many home energy links available for your personal use, the **free** Coop-Connection Card available for discount savings, the monthly *County Living* articles, the Cooperative Action Network, and much more.

We encourage you to take a moment to visit the new www.tricountyelectriccoop.coop and enjoy all that Tricounty has to offer. ☺



Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

Feel around doors and windows to check for air flow, and apply weather stripping or caulk to the seams of any that feel drafty. Warm air leaving your house makes your heating system work harder — and can add to your electric bill.

Find more tips at EnergySavers.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy