

VVEC LINE LIFE

FEBRUARY 2025 | PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF VERDIGRIS VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE | A SUPPLEMENT TO OKLAHOMA LIVING | WWW.VVEC.COM

Partnering with our communities

ADOPT-A-SCHOOL & RURAL FIRE GRANTS

For over twenty years, Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative has invited school and rural fire departments to apply for grants to aid in offsetting the costs of needed equipment, supplies and gear.

School representatives and fire department personnel may apply to receive funds from these grants and explain how the funds will be used. Once all applications have been reviewed, program personnel will decide how many requests the program can grant.

Applications and additional information may be found by visiting the Community Programs page on our website at www.vvec.com.



SCAN THIS QR CODE FOR ADOPT-A-SCHOOL INFO.



SCAN THIS QR CODE FOR RURAL FIRE DEPT. INFO.



APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY MARCH 14, 2025 AT 4:00 PM.
Contact Misti Frazier at 918-371-2584 or mfrazier@vvec.com with any questions.



Lemon Raspberry Cheesecake Bars

INGREDIENTS

GRAHAM CRACKER CRUST

1 cup graham cracker crumbs
1/4 cup salted butter, melted
2 Tbsp granulated sugar
1 Tbsp fresh lemon zest

LEMON CREAM CHEESE FILLING

2 cups (16 oz) cream cheese, softened
2/3 cup granulated sugar
1 Tbsp fresh lemon zest
1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
2 large eggs, room temperature

RASPBERRY SWIRL

3/4 cup raspberries, fresh or frozen
2 Tbsp granulated sugar

GRAHAM CRACKER CRUST

Preheat oven to 325 F or 165 C and line an 8- x 8-inch square baking pan with parchment paper. I like to use metal (unpainted) binder clips to keep my parchment paper in place.

Place 1 cup of graham cracker crumbs, 1/4 cup of melted butter, 2 Tbsp of sugar, and 1 Tbsp fresh lemon zest into a small bowl. Mix together until the ingredients are fully combined and the graham cracker crumbs look wet.

Pour the graham cracker mixture into your prepared pan. Use the back of a spoon or the bottom of a measuring cup to press down firmly and create a compact, even crust.

Bake for 8 minutes then remove from the oven. Place the pan on a wire rack to cool. Be sure to keep your oven on!!

LEMON CHEESECAKE

While the graham cracker crust bakes and cools, make the lemon cheesecake filling.

Place 2 cups of room temperature cream cheese in a medium sized bowl. Beat with a hand mixer or stand mixer with a whisk attachment on a medium to medium high speed. Mix until the cream cheese is smooth and creamy.

Add the 2/3 cup of sugar, 1 Tbsp lemon zest, and 1/4 cup of lemon juice. Mix on a medium-low speed until combined, scraping the sides of the bowl with a rubber spatula as needed.

Add in 2 eggs, one at a time. Mix on a medium speed until the eggs are fully incorporated.

Pour the lemon cheesecake on top of the cooled graham cracker crust.

RASPBERRY SWIRL

In a food processor or blender, blend 3/4 cup of fresh or frozen (and thawed) raspberries.

Pour the pureed raspberries into a mesh strainer to remove the seeds. Use the back of a spoon or rubber spatula to press the mixture through the strainer. Sometimes the puree sticks to the bottom of the strainer rather than dripping into your bowl, so I suggest scraping the underside of your mesh strainer with a spatula.

Stir 2 Tbsp of sugar into the raspberry puree by hand. The mixture will be quite thin, but that's how it's supposed to be!

Add spoonfuls of the raspberry mixture on top of the lemon cheesecake batter. Drag a knife or offset spatula through the cheesecake to create raspberry swirls.

Bake the cheesecake bars for 36-40 minutes. Do a wiggle test to check if they're done (watch the center, and look for a small wiggle), rather than a toothpick!

Let the bars cool completely in the pan on a metal rack. Once they reach room temperature, refrigerate them for an additional 2 hours or overnight. Do NOT put them immediately into the fridge, or the top can crack.

Top the cooled bars with an additional sprinkle of lemon zest and cut them with a sharp, warm knife. Clean the knife after each cut to get perfect squares.

Leftover bars can be kept in the fridge for up to 5 days in an airtight container.

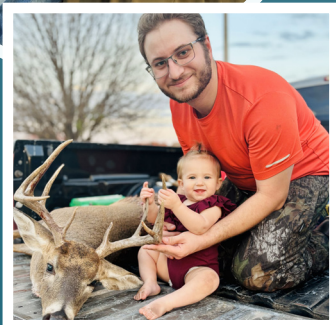
Enjoy!



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



COLE POTTS



The spotlight can't miss Cole Potts, a five-year Mechanic for Verdigris Valley. Cole has been a mechanic for the entirety of his time at VVEC.

Cole is married to his beautiful wife, Penny, and together they have their sweet baby girl, Juniper, who is one year old. Outside of work, he loves spending time with his family -- when he's not hunting, fishing or building trucks and custom vehicles! He helps his Dad with his trucking business, as well.

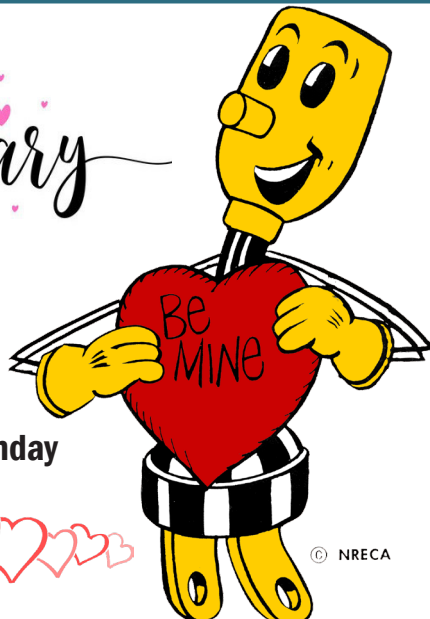
Cole likes the laid-back, steady nature of the cooperative and working with people like his boss, Collin, makes coming to work easy. There are a lot of good people who work here and he's a really good guy.

Congrats on a job very well done, Cole!

"There's a lot to like about VVEC. They treat me well and I know I can provide for my family."

HELLO
february

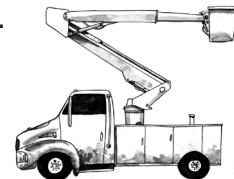
- 2.02 Groundhog Day
- 2.12 Lincoln's Birthday
- 2.14 Valentine's Day
- 2.17 Presidents' Day
- 2.22 Washington's Birthday



© NRECA

Tree crews will be working to clear right-of-way on the Javine substation - north and east of Skiatook - as well as the Collinsville substation.

Brush Coordinator:
Chub Brewer
918-586-6208



Is your account number 1581400301?
If so, call Megan Jackson at 918-586-6241 during the month of January and claim your \$50 bill credit! CONGRATS!



Stay safe during severe winter weather

When severe winter weather hits, power outages can occur. Roadways can be dangerous. Do all you can to prepare your pantry, home and car for the next severe winter storm. Once you are ready, watch and listen for weather bulletins mentioning winter storms, blizzard warnings or windchill dangers.

SUPPLIES FOR THE STORM

At home, have enough nonperishable food, water and medical supplies/medicines for 72 hours. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggest storing one gallon of water per person per day. Have cell phones and chargers, as well as backup charger sources, ready. Gather important documents and medical records.

Protect your pets and make sure you have enough supplies for them as well. Also have these items ready: a first-aid kit, a flashlight and batteries, hand sanitizer, blankets and warm clothing.

READYING THE HOUSE

Weatherproof your home ahead of winter by caulking windows and doors and looking for other air leaks that need attention. Inspect chimney flues for wood stoves or wood-burning fireplaces. Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on each floor of your home. Protect pipes from freezing.

24% of weather-related accidents occur on snowy or icy pavement

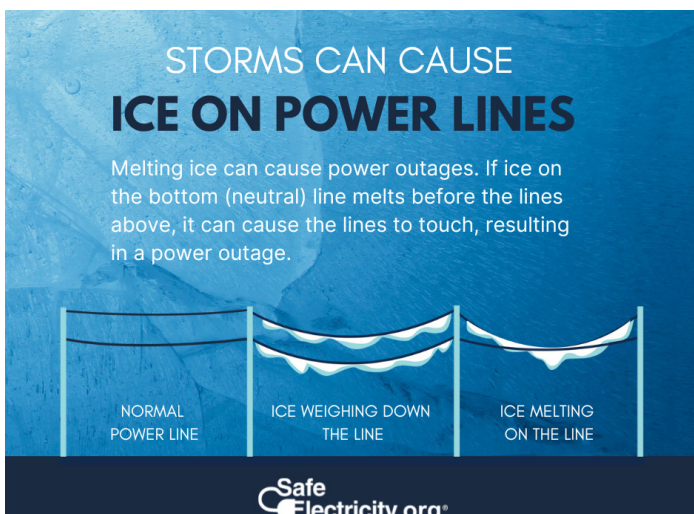
PREPARE YOUR VEHICLE WITH AN EMERGENCY KIT

According to Consumer Reports, it can be cheaper to buy a prepared emergency kit than to purchase items individually. A kit typically includes battery booster cables, an ice scraper, a portable shovel, flashlights, a signaling cone, backup batteries for the flashlight, roadside triangles, a reflective vest, a basic first-aid kit (add in what is needed for individual needs) and a cell phone charger.

In addition, your car or truck should also be stocked with gloves, a blanket, a rain poncho, wipes, rags, boots and a hat. It cannot hurt to also have bottled water and nonperishable snacks in your vehicle in case you get stranded.

PREPARE YOUR VEHICLE

Complete annual maintenance, test the car battery and cooling system, use winter tires and replace them if the tread is less than 2/32 of an inch, check tire pressure and wiper blades, add wiper fluid rated for less than minus 30 degrees and keep the gas tank at least half full.



A Storm is Always Ready

ARE YOU?



When Mother Nature threatens a severe storm, be ready by having an emergency kit on hand.

YOUR KIT SHOULD INCLUDE:



Bottles of water

Nonperishable food

Portable phone charger

Flashlights

Batteries

Can opener



First-aid supplies

Hand sanitizer

Prescriptions

Pain reliever

Warm clothing

Blankets



Battery-operated radio

Toys, books and games

Important documents

Money

Baby supplies

Pet supplies

DOWNED POWER LINES

Due to the potential for a winter storm to bring down power lines, individuals should only venture outside if necessary.

Slow down when driving in icy conditions, and always keep your eyes out for hazardous conditions or downed power lines. Also, watch for debris near down poles and lines, as it may be energized as well.

If you see a car in an accident with a power pole, your first instinct may be to rush toward the vehicle to offer help. Always remember to keep your distance from the vehicle and all electrical equipment that has been damaged. Instruct those in the car to stay inside until the power has been shut off.

If you must exit the vehicle because it is on fire, jump clear of it with your feet together and without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Keeping your feet together, shuffle or “bunny hop” to safety. Doing this will ensure that you will not have different strengths of electric current running from one foot to another.

Keep in mind that a downed line does not need to be sparking to be energized. It is best to assume all low and downed lines are energized and dangerous.

For utility crews, repairing damaged power lines is especially dangerous during storm conditions. The increased hazards mean that extra time and attention must be dedicated to ensure that power is safely restored.

Have patience while linemen work in these adverse conditions to turn the power back on, and remember to exercise safety and be prepared for driving in dangerous winter conditions.

Know that when the power goes out, we work hard to restore it safely and efficiently.

Once your kit is assembled, check it a few times a year to make sure batteries are fresh and that no one has borrowed a necessary item.

Learn more at:





YOUTH TOUR AND ENERGY CAMP!



Verdigris Valley Electric is proud to offer two once-in-a-lifetime trips -- **YOUTHPOWER ENERGY CAMP AND WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR** -- to eligible students in our service area.

Youth Tour | June 13-19, 2025

11th grade students on Youth Tour learn about electric cooperatives, experience American history and witness our government in action. They participate in National Youth Day, visit with members of our Congressional Delegation, and tour many famous Washington D.C. sites such as the U.S. Capitol, Arlington Cemetery, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Washington Monuments, Smithsonian Institution, and the Pentagon!



YouthPower Energy Camp | May 27-30, 2025

The camp's eighth grade participants experience first-hand the exciting world of rural electrification by electing board members, working in small groups to discuss real-life issues and concerns for their communities and developing leadership skills. They witness safety demonstrations, get to take a ride in the bucket of a co-op service truck, and even climb a utility pole, while wearing appropriate climbing gear, of course.



THE 2025 ESSAY CONTESTS END FEBRUARY 28TH, 2025 AT 4:00 PM.

Official rules, regulations and essay topics may be found by scanning the QR codes, going on our website at www.vvec.com or by contacting Misti Frazier - Youth Programs Coordinator at 918-371-2584 / mfrazier@vvec.com.



DON'T FALL FOR SCAMS

Never give out personal information to someone who contacts you.

Scammers are targeting energy consumers everywhere. They often call threatening to shut off power unless payment is made immediately. Or they may call saying you overpaid and ask for credit card or bank info to provide a credit.

Don't fall for these scams! Any possible disconnection would be preceded by written notice in the mail, possibly with your bill. Never give out personal information to anyone who calls claiming to be from your utility!

If you get such a call, or have questions about your bill, please call 918-371-2584 and speak to a billing representative.



February Mystery Picture! Do you know where this is? Be the first to correctly guess the location during the month of February and receive a \$50 bill credit! Call Megan Jackson at 918-586-6241 to submit your guess!

January's Location correctly guessed by Kay - Water towers east of 86th and 177th; North side of 86th St



SIGN UP TODAY



Manage Your Account



View and Pay Your Bill



Monitor Usage 24/7

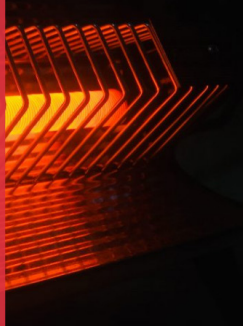


Report Service Issues



Receive Important Updates

FIRE PREVENTION: SPACE HEATER SAFETY TIPS



When cold weather sets in, covert battles over thermostat settings take place at many homes and businesses. Some people just can't seem to get warm, while others feel that they're suffocating from the heat. Not everyone experiences the same level of comfort at the same temperature. As a result, many people turn to space heaters or electric blankets for added warmth. Safe Electricity reminds those who use space heaters and electric blankets to keep safety considerations in mind and use these devices with caution.

While space heaters and electric blankets can provide needed warmth and comfort, they can also be deadly if they are not used with care.

When buying a space heater or electric blanket, check for approved safety certification marks to verify that the product has been tested for safety. Look for a space heaters and electric blankets with safety features, including an automatic shut off.

Be very cautious about buying used space heaters or electric blankets. They may not have up-to-date safety mechanisms. Your safety is worth the investment in a new heater or blanket.

To help you and your family stay safe, also be sure to check smoke detectors every month, and replace batteries twice a year.

When it comes time to get rid of an old or damaged space heater or electric blanket, do not dispose of your electrical appliances with your general waste. Check with your local recycling facility to see if they accept space heaters and electric blankets.

Also, develop and practice an escape plan. A good plan is known by all household members and includes an outside meeting location away from danger of the fire.

To learn more on how to avoid electrical hazards, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Preventing Home Electrical Fires



Fire departments respond to an average of **46,700** home fires each year caused by electrical failure or malfunction.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA):

Over a recent 4-year period...



30%

happened in cold weather months (Nov. – Feb.)

Fires caused

an estimated average of:



390 Deaths
1,070 Injuries

1

Wiring and related equipment were involved in the **greatest number of home electrical fires.**

Lighting, a lamp or a bulb was involved in the **second largest number of fires.**



WARNING SIGNS of electrical issues:

Damaged cords and flickering lights

Discolored outlets and switch plates

Frequently tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses

Hire a licensed contractor to ensure that your home's wiring is **installed to code** and functioning properly. Learn more at:

Safe Electricity.org®

Source: NFPA's Electrical Fires Report, 2022



VVEC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- District 1: Jim Brackett - 720-4531
- District 2: Jack Bogart - 371-9587
- District 3: John Brogan - 810-7131
- District 4: John Hibdon - 847-2320
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- District 7: Charles Huerter - 914-1498
- District 8: Ken Howard - 724-9965
- District 9: Buddy McCarty - 272-5364

General Manager: Alice Lawson

CONTACT US

VVEC Headquarters
8901 E 146th St N Collinsville, OK

Mailing address
P.O. Box 219, Collinsville, OK 74021

Phone number
918-371-2584 or 1-800-870-5948

Office hours
7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Mon-Fri

Line Life Editor:
Megan Jackson

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You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Director: Office of Adjudication
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
Fax: 202-690-7442
Email: program.intake@usda.gov

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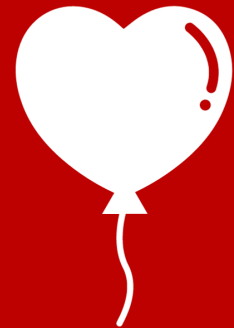
CLASSIFIEDS

SUBMIT ADS to classified@vvec.com or send to ATTN: Classified, P.O. Box 219 Collinsville, OK 74021. Ads must be in writing. Your account number, name, address and a phone number is required on all ads. The deadline for all ads is the 1st of the month. Ads submitted by the 1st of the month will run in the following month's newsletter. *Classified ads are a free service to VVEC members only. As many ads as space allows will be included in each issue. VVEC reserves the right to delete or shorten items or descriptions.*

- Professional, personalized dog grooming at your home. Small dogs only. Most dogs only \$40.00. Over 40 years experience. 918-381-1170
- Engine stand; Manicure Table; Parts Washers -- to see or make offer, text 918-638-0859
- Older 12' long bench with back; 1x2 slated wood - very sturdy. \$175 or trade. call or text with best offer 918-231-6385
- Winter is coming, is your house ready? Home repair & remodel, handyman; Over 50 years experience. References available. Call or text 918-231-6385
- Entertainment table; 4' wide, 20" deep, 30" tall. Dark brown with glass front doors and shelves inside. \$40.00 918-381-1170

Safety Tip

Did you know that mylar balloons can damage the power grid and cause power outages? Mylar and latex balloons eventually fall back to earth and their remnants can cause harm to animals and marine life. Consider alternatives to balloon releases and enjoy balloons indoors.



Safe Electricity.org®

WINTER RESIDENTIAL RATES

October through March usage;
November through April billing

Customer Charge | \$40.00
Energy Charge | \$.08279/kwh

A power cost adjustment (PCA) will be applied to all bills when the actual cost of power purchased exceeds or is less than 62.088 mills per kwh.

In addition, a gross receipts tax of 2% of revenue will be included, plus additional taxes, if applicable.

IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE

• First, check your fuses or circuit breakers. Every service is different. You may have fuses or circuit breakers in your house, on the side of your house, under your meter, or all three places. Check to see if your neighbors have electricity.

•Then, call the co-op at 371-2584 or 1-800-870-5948. Have your account number, name as it appears on the account, and address handy to give to the dispatcher. If you should get a recording, leave your information; every message will be answered.

•Download the SmartHub app at www.smarthubapp.com to report outages from your smartphone.