

WVEC LINE LIFE

AUGUST 2026 | PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF VERDIGRIS VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE | A SUPPLEMENT TO OKLAHOMA LIVING | WWW.WVEC.COM

FREEDOM 250 STORM JULY 4, 2026

While fireworks lit up the sky, a different kind of storm was moving in. But when our members needed us most, we answered the call.



VVEC encourages the safe, efficient use of electricity and actively supports community initiatives that benefit our members and the public.

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.

SUMMER RESIDENTIAL RATES

April through September usage;
May through October billing

Customer Charge: \$40.00

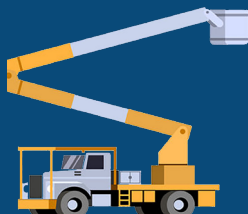
Energy Charge: 1st 2000 kWh | \$.08279 / kWh
over 2000 kWh | \$.08789 / kWh

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.

Tree crews are working to clear right-of-way on the Oologah and Javine substations.

Brush Coordinator:
Chub Brewer
918-586-6208



“YOU CAN NEVER GET ENOUGH
BOOKS INTO THE HANDS
OF ENOUGH
CHILDREN”





Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative is proud to partner with “Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library” to help ensure the young children in our communities have access to books!

To check availability in your area and get more information, visit <https://www.vvec.com/dolly-partons-imagination-library> or scan the QR code to the left with your smartphone!



**HAPPY
LABOR DAY**
SEPTEMBER 7, 2026

Our offices will be closed on
Monday, September 7, 2026
in observance of Labor Day.

We will re-open on
Tuesday, September 8, 2026
at 7:30 AM.

BOARD ELECTIONS COMING THIS FALL

This fall, members in Districts 1, 3 and 5 will elect representatives to serve on the VVEC Board of Trustees. Elections will be held during each district meeting, with those elected serving three-year terms.



DISTRICT 1 - JIM BRACKETT

Jim Brackett has been a VVEC member since 1973 and has been on the board as a trustee since 2010.

He and his wife, Pam, live in the South Coffeyville area where they have a cow-calf operation. Brackett worked for VVEC and retired after a 33-year career. They have four children and numerous grandkids.

"I appreciate the opportunity to serve as a board trustee and represent the members of District 1," he says.



DISTRICT 3 - JOHN BROGAN

John was appointed to the Board in December 2024, filling the District 3 vacancy created by the passing of long-time Trustee Vernon Lewis.

Originally from Indiana, John moved to Oklahoma with his family at age thirteen. After graduating from Union High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy Construction Battalion — the Seabees — proudly serving from 1989 to 1999. During his time in the Navy Reserve, John attended Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Aviation Maintenance. He also worked for American Airlines for more than 14 years before becoming an owner and agent with R&B Insurance Solutions.

John and his wife, Kim, are the proud parents of three daughters. Much of their free time is spent at softball and cheer events, but when they manage a weekend off, the family enjoys camping together.

With more than a year of experience on the board of trustees, John has gained an understanding of cooperative operations and remains committed to continued growth. "I appreciate this opportunity and will always do my best to serve the members of District 3".



DISTRICT 5 - JIMMY LAMBERT

Jimmy Lambert has represented the members of District 5 since May 2008. He has been a member of VVEC since 1995.

A graduate of Owasso High School, Lambert is a former Collinsville Firefighter and for 38 years, he along with his brother, owned Lambert's Auto Salvage in Collinsville. He is currently the owner and operator of Lambert Property Service.

He and his wife Gaye live in Tiawah. They have five sons together and six grandchildren. Gaye owns and operates Uptown Salon in Owasso.



The severe storms that moved through our service area over the Fourth of July holiday left behind widespread damage unlike anything we've seen in quite some time. High winds, fallen trees and broken poles caused power outages across the system, leaving 8,831 members without electricity at the peak of the storm.

By the time the damage had been assessed, crews were facing the enormous task of replacing 100 broken poles while also repairing countless spans of downed line and other storm-related damage. It was a restoration effort that required long hours, careful planning and a lot of teamwork.

From the time the first outages were reported until the last member's power was restored, the restoration effort lasted 71 hours and 50 minutes.



We certainly didn't do it alone. We were grateful for the assistance of line crews from Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative and Indian Electric Cooperative, along with contract line crews and brush crews who joined the restoration effort. Their willingness to leave their own communities and come help ours is a reminder of what makes electric cooperatives different. One of the Cooperative Principles is Cooperation Among Cooperatives, and during times like these, it's more than just words, it's neighbors helping neighbors. Their support made a tremendous difference, and we're incredibly thankful they answered the call.

Storm restoration is about much more than the crews working in the field. While lineworkers were rebuilding the system, employees across the cooperative were supporting the effort in every way possible. Dispatchers coordinated work, warehouse employees kept materials moving, mechanics kept trucks and equipment running, member service representatives answered an overwhelming number of calls, and employees from every department stepped in wherever they were needed. It truly took the entire cooperative working together with one goal in mind.



The challenge was made even greater by the July heat. As temperatures climbed, our members waited without air conditioning while crews, brush crews and support personnel spent long days working outdoors to safely restore service. It wasn't easy on anyone, but the shared patience of our members and the determination of everyone involved kept the restoration effort moving forward.

We'd also like to thank our members for the kindness they showed throughout the weekend. We know being without power, especially during the heat of July, is more than an inconvenience. Your patience, understanding and words of encouragement meant a great deal to everyone working behind the scenes and in the field.

Storms like these are never easy, but they remind us what can be accomplished when neighbors help neighbors and everyone pulls in the same direction. We are proud of every employee, every mutual aid crew, every contractor and every volunteer who played a part in restoring power safely to our members.





A Safe Start to the School Year

Whether your student is catching the bus, driving to class, or moving into a dorm, these simple reminders can help keep the school year off to a safe start.

The start of a new school year brings a lot of excitement. School buses are back on the roads, neighborhoods are a little busier in the mornings, and college students are packing up for life in the dorms. While everyone is focused on getting back into a routine, it's also a great time to think about safety.

For families with school-age children, one of the biggest reminders is to watch for school buses. School buses are one of the safest ways for students to travel, but the moments when children are getting on and off the bus are when they're most at risk.

If you're driving, slow down in school zones and near bus stops. Give buses plenty of room, and remember what their signals mean. Flashing yellow lights mean the bus is getting ready to stop, so it's time to slow down. When the red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended, stop and wait until the bus begins moving again. Never pass a stopped school bus on an undivided road as it's not only dangerous, it's illegal in most states.

Children can be unpredictable, especially around bus stops, so stay alert and watch for kids who may suddenly step into the roadway. When school zone lights are flashing, be extra aware of pedestrians and always be prepared to stop.

Parents can help, too, by practicing bus stop safety with their children before the first day of school. Encourage them to arrive a few minutes early, stay at least ten feet back from the curb, wait for the driver's signal before boarding, and always cross in front of the bus, not behind it. Making eye contact with the driver before crossing is another simple habit that can make a big difference.

As kids grow into teenagers, back-to-school safety takes on a different look. More teens are driving themselves to school, sports, practices, and after-school jobs. It's an exciting milestone, but one that comes with a lot of responsibility.

Put the phone away, buckle up every trip, obey speed limits, and give yourself extra time to get where you're going. A few minutes saved isn't worth risking your safety or someone else's. Parents can also help by setting a good example behind the wheel and continuing conversations about safe driving long after a teen earns a license.

4 SAFETY TIPS

TEEN DRIVERS NEED TO KNOW



1 THAT TEXT CAN WAIT

When texting while driving, the shortest amount of time a person takes his or her eyes off the road is five seconds. At 55 mph, that is like driving the length of a football field with your eyes closed.

2 DON'T GET OUT

If you are in a car accident involving a power line or padmount transformer ("green box"), stay inside the vehicle and call 9-1-1. Unless the car is on fire or giving off smoke, do not get out. If there is a fire, make a solid jump from the vehicle without touching it and hop with your feet together as far away as you can.

3 RESPECT WORK ZONES

One work zone crash occurs every 5.4 minutes. Remind teen drivers to consider anyone doing their job in or near the road as someone they know and love. Encourage them to move over and slow down for workers.

4 DON'T DRIVE DISTRACTED

Texting is not the only form of distracted driving. Driving and doing ANYTHING else is multitasking. Eight deaths occur EVERY DAY due to drivers who drive distracted.

DORM ROOM

ELECTRICAL SAFETY:

TIPS FOR A SAFE SEMESTER



Be smart and stay safe. Share these tips with your campus-bound students.

⚡ DON'T OVERLOAD OUTLETS

Too much power draw = fire risk.

💡 **Tip:** Plug dorm room fridge directly into wall outlet.

⚡ UNPLUG WHEN NOT IN USE

Even when off, devices can still draw power or overheat.

💡 **Tip:** Unplug fans, chargers and appliances when you're out.

⚡ DECORATE SAFELY

Don't use nails or tacks to secure cords or light strands.

💡 **Tip:** Use plastic hooks to hang string lights.

⚡ NEVER CHARGE A PHONE UNDER PILLOWS OR BEDDING

It could overheat or catch fire.

💡 **Tip:** Create a dedicated charging station in your room.

⚡ NEVER USE DAMAGED CORDS

Frayed or cracked cords can spark a fire.

💡 **Tip:** If a cord looks worn, replace it — don't tape it!

⚡ KEEP CORDS COOL & CLEAR

Don't run cords under rugs, beds or doorways.

💡 **Tip:** Keep cords visible to avoid overheating.

⚡ REPORT ELECTRICAL ISSUES FAST

Flickering lights? Warm outlets?

💡 **Tip:** Tell campus maintenance ASAP; don't wait.

Learn more:

Safe Electricity.org®

For students heading off to college, there are a few different safety reminders to keep in mind. Dorm rooms may be small, but they can fill up quickly with electronics, chargers, refrigerators, microwaves, and other appliances. Plugging too much into one outlet or power strip can overload a circuit and create a fire hazard.

Choose power strips with built-in overload protection, avoid overloading outlets, and only use electrical products that have been tested by recognized safety organizations such as UL, CSA, or MET. Keep cords and appliances away from bedding, curtains, papers, and anything else that could catch fire.

If your dorm room has outlets near a sink, make sure they're protected by Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs). If you're not sure, ask your resident assistant or campus housing staff. It's also a good habit to unplug small appliances when they're not being used and unplug electronics before leaving for extended breaks.

Microwave safety is another easy one to overlook. Stick with microwave-safe containers, and never put metal or aluminum foil inside. If the microwave appears damaged, don't use it until it's been inspected or replaced.

One piece of advice that often gets overlooked is to talk with your roommate before move-in day. Coordinating who is bringing what can save space and help prevent several high-powered appliances from being plugged into the same circuit. It's also a good idea to check your school's housing guidelines since many campuses don't allow certain appliances, such as hot plates or coffee makers, in residence halls.

Finally, never disable a smoke detector or ignore a fire alarm. Even if you think it's probably a false alarm, treat every alarm seriously and evacuate the building.

Whether your family is sending a kindergartener off to their first day, celebrating a teen's new driver's license, or moving a freshman into a dorm room, taking a few extra minutes to think about safety can help everyone start the school year with confidence. A little preparation now can go a long way toward making this school year a safe and successful one.



Back-to-school means e-bikes and e-scooters are as common as backpacks. A few smart habits can prevent battery fires and keep students safe:

- Use the charger made for your device
- Plug directly into a wall outlet — don't use extension cords or power strips.
- Charge on a flat, dry surface away from anything that can catch fire.
- Keep batteries out of hallways, doorways and exits.
- Unplug when fully charged.



Stop using a battery if it smells unusual, gets very hot, makes popping sounds or changes in shape or color.



Line Life is published monthly by Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative, Collinsville, Oklahoma (ISSN 10884378) for its members in Tulsa, Rogers, Washington, Nowata and Osage counties.

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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 \$50.00. Over 40 years experience. 918-381-1170
- Handyman service to repair and remodel; affordable plumbing and electric. Call or text for free estimate; references available. 918-231-6385
- Back Rack and Craftsman tool box for full sized pickup truck; \$250.00 918-637-3314
- Dish Playmaker portable satellite and tv receiver with stand; \$200 918-637-3314





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Report Service Issues

Receive Important Updates



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Stay connected with VVEC! Scan the QR code to follow us on social media and stay up to date on news, outages and cooperative events!



AUGUST MYSTERY PICTURE

Think you recognize the location? Call Megan Jackson at 918-586-6241 **starting AUG 1** to submit your guess. The **first** correct answer wins a \$50 bill credit!

Contest runs through the end of August.

July Mystery Location:
Railroad over pass Hwy 169 North of 66th North in Owasso (west side)