

VVEC

POWER CIRCUIT

FEBRUARY 2023 | PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF VERDIGRIS VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE | A SUPPLEMENT TO OKLAHOMA LIVING | WWW.VVEC.COM

Keep Your Valentine Safe This Year: Metallic Balloon Safety Tips



Valentine's Treat: Best Cherry Cake



Rate Increase Explained



DEAD
END



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COMMON CAUSES
of HOME ELECTRICAL FIRES



An average of 346,800 home fires occur every year, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Electrical issues (either failure or malfunction) account for 46,700 of those fires.

Common Causes

The most common causes of electrical fires are incorrectly installed wiring; overloaded circuits or extension cords; defective or improper plugs, switches or outlets; and the misuse or poor maintenance of lighting.

Warning Signs

Know the signs that indicate a possible wiring or electrical problem. These include flickering or dimming lights; discolored cords, outlets or switch plates; switches or outlets that are hot to the touch or emit an odor; and recurring blown fuses and tripped circuit breakers.

Prevention

Hire a qualified electrician to examine and repair any electrical issues in your home. Do not take on do-it-yourself electrical projects if you are not qualified.

Learn more:



Sources: NFPA, The Hartford



WIN A TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

**DEADLINE TO
SUBMIT ESSAYS
TO THE CO-OP
IS 4 P.M.
FRIDAY, MARCH
3, 2023.**

To compete, students must be juniors this year and attending high school in VVEC's service territory. Their parents do not have to be members of VVEC for them to participate in this program. Students are required to write an essay on a specific co-op related topic. The topic, along with the program's rules and regulations, are detailed in the Youth Tour Information Packet, available on VVEC's Web site at www.VVEC.com The three highest scoring finalists will win an all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. Two alternates will win a \$1,000 scholarship and a \$750 scholarship, respectively.

Contact: Regina Morris

918-371-2584

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February Calendar of Events



4th - 2023 Tulsa Boat Sport & Travel Show, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Tulsa Expo Square, 4145 E 21st St., Tulsa, OK 74114.

5th - 2023 Tulsa Boat Sport & Travel Show, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tulsa Expo Square, 4145 E 21st St., Tulsa, OK 74114.

5th - Sensory Sunday Skate at Wheels and Thrills Owasso. 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. \$7 per skate participant. Arcade suspended.

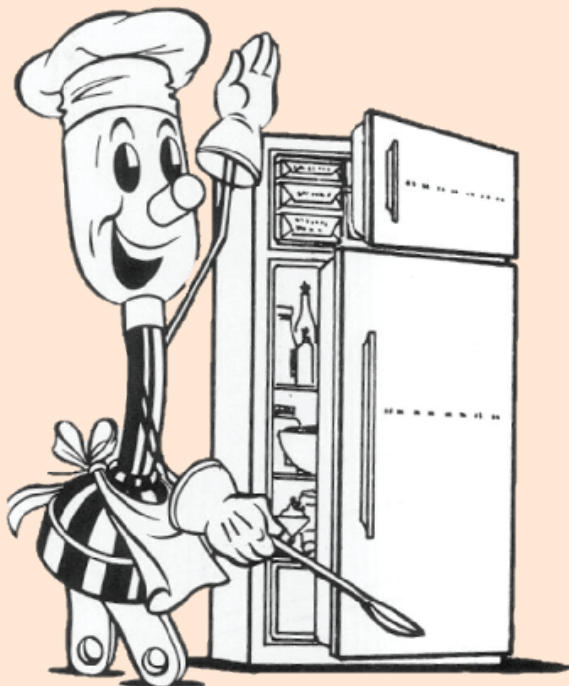
7th - In the Kitchen with Susan- Free Cooking Classes, in person at the Bartlesville Public Library, 600 S. Johnstone Ave, Bartlesville, OK 74003. Can also join via facebook live on the Bartlesville Library Facebook page. Begins at 12 p.m.

14th - Knit- Crochet Circle, Bartlesville Public Library, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m., bring projects and join for a fun time no matter your skill level.

14th - Delaware Tribe of Indians Title VI Program's Valentine's Party. \$75 per couple, includes: 2 steaks, 2 baked potatoes, 2 salads, 2 desserts, 1 long stem rose, dancing and games. RSVP by 2/13/2023 to Trudy: 918-440-9335

24th - "Serve and be Served" Bingo night to support The Journey Home Hospice. Regular pack bingo is \$12 and starts at 7 p.m. Happening at Dewey Fairgrounds, 1109 N Delaware St, Dewey, OK 74029

Willie's Throwback Recipe



Layered Cherry Cake

- 1 can cherry pie filling
- 1 lb., 4 oz. can crushed pineapple slightly drained
- 1 lb. 5 oz. box white or yellow cake mix
- 1/2 c. nuts, finely chopped
- 2 sticks margarine
- Cool Whip (optional)
- 9 inch unbaked pie shell

Lightly grease a 9 x 13 inch pan and spread pie filling evenly in pan. Spread pineapple over pie filling, sprinkle with dry cake mix, then with nuts. Thinly slice margarine and place over nuts. Bake in a 350 degree oven for 45 minutes. Tastes delicious when topped with Cool Whip.

Published in The Servin' Spoon III

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. Over 40 years experience. Most dogs only \$40. Contact 918-381-1170
- Enclosed trailer '9' x 5' (lockable). Used for 3-5 craft shows per year. Tows effortlessly, \$1,600.00. Contact 918-595-3695



Valentines Word Search

Can you find the words hidden in the puzzle?

E	L	E	C	T	R	I	C	E	R	D	C
H	X	L	P	N	O	F	H	O	S	T	P
S	G	I	F	T	S	O	L	S	I	R	O
W	O	U	N	T	E	L	O	T	C	I	W
E	M	Y	M	G	S	I	V	T	A	C	E
E	N	J	U	M	T	O	H	K	I	K	R
T	T	E	G	S	L	I	N	E	S	O	D
S	L	F	R	O	V	N	D	K	R	T	N
R	R	P	R	G	S	E	N	T	S	E	G
P	T	R	A	E	Y	C	A	N	D	Y	S
D	F	C	O	N	F	H	S	A	A	E	N
H	E	A	R	T	S	E	R	X	Y	E	E

ELECTRIC

SWEETS

GIFTS

ROSES

ENERGY

HEARTS

POWER

LINES

CANDY

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Let's Get Connected for Our Latest News & Updates

Rate Increase Effective March 1st 2023

Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative will be implementing our first rate increase since 2016 beginning March 1, 2023. We have all felt the inflation of 8% over the past year, and VVEC is seeing unprecedented cost increases in wire, transformers, poles, fuel, vehicles and all costs associated with operating and maintaining a distribution electric cooperative. While VVEC prides itself on providing reliable, affordable power to its members, the cost to do so is increasing.

In 2022, VVEC underwent an extensive process to analyze our current rates and to develop a rate plan to guide our rates for the financial health of the cooperative. We know that over the past few years there has been incredible economic pressures, cost pressures and inflation pressures. Currently there are a number of issues impacting the electric industry that are forcing cooperatives to examine existing rates and in many cases implement a rate increase. VVEC hired a third-party, Guernsey Engineering to conduct a rate study. As a result of the rate study, VVEC's board recognizes and understands in order to maintain the quality, reliability and stability of the services we provide, it is necessary for us to adjust our rates. The notable rate change is the customer charge on your bill. It will increase from \$30.00 to \$40.00. The customer charge increase allows us to better reflect our actual cost to serve as it pertains to the fixed cost. The variable cost is captured in our energy charge. Members will also notice a change in the winter rate. The new winter rate will be the same cost per kWh as the first 2,000 kWh tier as the summer rate of \$.08279. In keeping with a commitment made several years ago to align rates closer to the actual cost of providing service, the Board of Directors made the decision to increase the monthly charge. Increasing the customer charge instead of the energy charge to recover increased fixed costs will result in residential accounts paying a larger share of the cooperative's fixed cost through the customer charge instead of the energy rate. While virtually all aspects of today's cost of living continue to rise, we pride ourselves on avoiding routine rate increases. We believe that reliable electric service at a reasonable price is something that our members can count on and that we strive to deliver on a daily basis.

Example of New Rate vs Current Rate on a Residential Account with 1500 kWh billing

Current Rate: Residential Summer

1500 kWh x .0827 \$124.08

Customer Charge \$ 30.00

Security Light \$ 8.30

Tax \$ 3.25

TOTAL \$165.63

Current Rate: Residential Winter

1500 kWh x .0777 \$116.58

Customer Charge \$ 30.00

Security Light \$ 8.30

Tax \$ 3.10

TOTAL \$157.98

New Rate: Residential

1500 kWh x .0828 \$124.19

Customer Charge \$ 40.00

Security Light \$ 8.85

Tax \$ 3.46

TOTAL \$176.50

BREAK DOWN OF CHARGES



CURRENT RATES BREAKDOWN OF CHARGES

Customer Charge \$30.00
Energy Charge – Summer (Apr-Sep)
First 2,000 kWh per month \$0.08272
Over 2,000 kWh per month \$0.08782
Energy Charge – Winter (Oct-Mar) \$0.07772

NEW RATES BREAKDOWN OF CHARGES

Customer Charge \$40.00
Energy Charge – Summer (Apr-Sep)
First 2,000 kWh per month \$0.08279
Over 2,000 kWh per month \$0.08789
Energy Charge – Winter (Oct-Mar) \$0.08279

Metallic balloons are great indoors and can brighten the bleakest and most dreary winter day. They are great at birthdays, graduations and other special occasions. However, you must know how to use and dispose of metallic balloons properly, or you could cause a power outage and damage to utility electrical equipment. Because of the metallic coating, they conduct electricity well and can short out circuits in your community's power system. You and your neighbors could lose power, traffic lights could go out, and entire blocks of homes and businesses could go dark. To prevent this, keep metallic balloons secured. When done

with the balloons, deflate them and throw them in the garbage. Do not release them. Never tie a metallic balloon to a child's wrist. If the balloon comes in contact with electricity, it will travel through the balloon and into the child. This could cause a serious injury or even death. Metallic balloons have been known to float for several days before losing their helium and returning to Earth. If one lands within the fence of an electric utility substation, it can cause electrical fires and untold dollars' worth of damage after high transmission circuitry goes down.



WINTER RESIDENTIAL RATES

October through March usage;
November through April billing

Customer Charge | \$30.00

Energy Charge | \$.07772/kWh

A power cost adjustment (PCA) will be applied to all bills when the actual cost of power purchased exceeds or is less than 59.87 mills per kWh.

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer.

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.