

HOT LINES



Midwest Electric, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

December 2021

News about your community and cooperative

419.394.4110 | 1.800.962.3830
www.midwestrec.com

IMPORTANT MEMBER INFO

\$2.3 MILLION IS COMING BACK TO MEMBERS!

Watch your bill this month to see the VALUE of your co-op membership

Midwest Electric will pay back **\$2.3 million in patronage cash back to 8,613 current and former members this December.** It's noteworthy that once again, we're able to give this cash back without raising electric rates. We haven't had a rate increase since 2010, and over those 11 years, we've returned \$17 million in patronage cash back (including this month's payment) and invested more than \$26 million in electric system reliability upgrades.

Patronage is your equity ownership in your electric cooperative. It helps us pay for electric improvements; then we pay it back to you! Customers of other utilities don't receive this perk. This month's cash back goes to those of you who used our service in 2005. **A typical residential member from that year will receive a bill credit of about \$221.**

Since 1955, we have returned \$38 million. For this month's payment, eligible members will receive the refund as a credit on their electric bill mailed around Nov. 21 or as a separate check. Please call our office if you have questions. Thanks for being a member of your community co-op!



ENERGY UPDATE

**Propane prices are rising
...but we have a \$500 rebate for that!**

According to various news sources, like the Wall Street Journal and NBC, propane prices are climbing due to strong overseas demand and tighter production.

"Americans who rely on propane for heating are facing the most expensive winter in years, as prices for the fuel jump to the highest since 2014," a Sept. 15 Bloomberg news article states.

If making the switch to electric is on your mind, Midwest has you covered. We offer a \$500 rebate when you replace a gas water heater with a new electric water heater. A load management switch must be installed to receive the rebate. Plus, you'll receive a \$1 monthly bill credit (\$12/year) for having the load management switch active. **For a full list of rebates, visit midwestrec.com/rebates or call our office.**

ATTENTION 2022 GRADS:



APPLY FOR OUR SCHOLARSHIPS

We offer two different scholarships totaling \$11,000 for graduating high school seniors. **Applications are due Jan. 14.** Winners will be eligible to compete for additional statewide funds. Call us or email jjohns@midwestrec.com for details.

Applications are available online at www.midwestrec.com > My Community > Scholarships.

WHERE TO GET HELP WITH UTILITY BILLS:

If you need help with your bills and are facing a possible shut-off of services, find aid here:

HEAP

Columbus, OH
1-800-282-0880
www.energyhelp.ohio.gov

ALLEN COUNTY

West Ohio Community Action Partnership
540 S. Central Ave., Lima
419-227-2586 | www.wocap.org
Appointment hotline: 419-227-2586

Allen Co. Job & Family Services

951 Commerce Pkwy, Lima
419-228-2621 | acjfs.org

AUGLAIZE COUNTY

West Ohio Community Action Partnership
13093 Infirmary Road, Wapakoneta
419-227-2586 | www.wocap.org
Appointment hotline: 419-227-2586

Auglaize Co. Job & Family Services

12 N. Wood St., Wapakoneta
567-242-2700
www.auglaizecountydjfs.org

Mercy Unlimited

38 E. Auglaize St., Wapakoneta
419-738-3161 | www.mercyunlimited.org

St. Vincent DePaul Center

107 W. Pearl St., Wapakoneta
419-738-7456 | Wed.-Thurs., 9-11:35 a.m.

MERCER COUNTY

West Ohio Community Action Partnership

420 N. Brandon, Suite A, Celina
419-227-2586 | www.wocap.org
Appointment hotline: 419-227-2586

OUR Home Family Resource Center

117 W. Fayette St., Celina
419-586-4663 | www.ourhomefrc.com

Mercer County Job & Family Services

220 W. Livingston St., Suite 10, Celina
419-586-5106 | mercercountyohio.org/jfs

PUTNAM COUNTY

Putnam County Job & Family Services

1225 E. Third St., Ottawa
567-376-3777

Putnam County Community Action

575 Ottawa Glandorf Road, Suite 1, Ottawa
Main office in Findlay: 419-423-3755
Satellite office in Ottawa: 419-523-5345

VAN WERT COUNTY

Northwestern Ohio Community Action

114 E. Main St., Suite 1, Van Wert
419-238-4544

Utility Assistance: 419-219-4641

If you're getting behind on your electric bill, please call us. We might be able to work out payment arrangements for your past due amount, and we will help you with service agencies.

Remember, we are on your side and want to help our members!



BACKUP GENERATOR SAFETY FOR YOUR HOME

DOS AND DON'TS

- DO** operate a generator outdoors in an area with plenty of ventilation.
- DO** install CO alarms inside the home to provide an early warning of carbon monoxide.
- DO NOT** plug a generator into the wall without installing a transfer switch to prevent backfeed.
- DO** turn the generator on before plugging in appliances.
- DO NOT** use a generator as a permanent solution.

Community Calendar

PLEASE NOTE: *Because of the coronavirus situation, many events may be canceled or postponed. Please seek updated information before traveling.*

- ◆ Nov. 27-Dec. 27 **Merry & Bright Christmas Lights**, Mercer County Fairgrounds, Thursdays & Sundays, 6-9 pm; Fridays & Saturdays 6-10 pm
- ◆ Dec. 1-31 **Drive Through Light Display**, Auglaize County Fairgrounds, Thurs - Sat, 419-738-2515
- ◆ Dec. 2 **First Thursday in the Fort**, Ft Recovery Downtown Merchants, 5-8 pm
- ◆ Dec. 4 **Pictures with Santa**, Cisco Realty, St Marys, 419-394-6404
- ◆ Dec. 4-5 **Tri State Gun Show**, Allen County Fairgrounds, Sat from 8:30-4 pm, Sun from 8:30-3 pm
- ◆ Dec. 5 **Wizards of Winter**, Niswonger Performing Arts Center, Van Wert, www.vanwertlive.com
- ◆ Dec. 8 **Bus Trip to Clifton Mills**, Van Wert Co. Council On Aging, Van Wert, www.coavw.org/bus-trips
- ◆ Dec. 11 **National Model Railroad Association Train Show**, Allen County Fairgrounds, 10 am-3 pm
- ◆ Dec. 11 **Laurel Oaks Christmas Light Extravaganza**, Laurel Oaks, Lima, 7 pm-10 pm
- ◆ Dec. 11 **Bells, Brass and Bows**, Veterans Memorial Civic Center, Lima, 7:30 pm
- ◆ Dec. 12 **Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol**, Veterans Memorial Civic & Convention Center, Lima, www.limaciviccenter.com/achristmascarol
- ◆ Dec. 18 **Texas Tenors**, Niswonger Performing Arts Center, Van Wert, www.vanwertlive.com/events/category/ticketed-events
- ◆ Dec. 23-24 **Office closed for Christmas:** Enjoy the holiday with your family!
- ◆ Dec. 31 **Classical Mystery Tour**, Veterans Memorial Civic Center, Lima, 7:30 pm
- ◆ Dec. 30 & 31 **Office closes at 11:30 am for New Year's Eve and all day for New Year's Day**

Energy Efficiency | Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holiday season? Unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets like TVs, phone chargers, gaming consoles, and toothbrush chargers use energy when plugged into an outlet — even when they're not in use.

