

HOT LINES



Midwest Electric, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

419.394.4110 | 1.800.962.3830
www.midwestrec.com

December 2022

News about your community and cooperative

IMPORTANT MEMBER INFO



YOUR PIECE OF THE PIE

\$2.2 MILLION IN PATRONAGE COMING BACK TO MEMBERS THIS MONTH

Midwest Electric will pay back **\$2.2 million in patronage cash back to 8,598 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 12 years, we've returned \$19 million in patronage cash back (including this month's payment) and invested more than \$30 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 aren't part-owners in the company, like co-op members are, so they don't receive this benefit. This month's cash back goes to those of you who used our service in 2006. **A typical residential member from that year will receive a bill credit of about \$196.**

Since 1955, we have returned \$40 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 local co-op!

ELECTRIC VEHICLES



Midwest installs 2nd EV charging station at Moeller Brew Barn

The Maria Stein community is getting a boost of power on the road – that is, those with electric vehicles! Your co-op recently installed a Level 2 electric vehicle charging station at Moeller Brew Barn, a member artisan restaurant and craft brewery located in Maria Stein. This is the co-op's second electric vehicle (EV) charging station available to the public. The first ChargePoint charging station was installed at Niekamp Farm Market in February 2022.

DID YOU KNOW? Midwest Electric offers a \$200 rebate to residential members for a level 2 EV charging station. **For a full list of rebates, visit midwestrec.com/rebates or call our office.**

ATTENTION 2023 GRADS:



APPLY FOR OUR SCHOLARSHIPS

We offer two different scholarships totaling \$11,000 for graduating high school seniors. **Applications are due by Friday, Feb. 17.** 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 utility bills and are facing a possible shut-off of services, there are places you can go for help.

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 | Friday, 9-11:30 am

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.ourhomefrcc.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
575 Ottawa Glandorf Rd. Suite 1, Ottawa
567-376-3777

Putnam County Community Action

1205 SE 3rd Street, 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 in 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!**



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

- ◆ Nov. 23-Dec. 25 **4-H Exchange Club Christmas Light Show**, Van Wert Co. Fairgrounds, 6-9:30 pm
- ◆ Nov. 24-Dec. 25 **Gift of Lights Christmas Display**, Auglaize Co. Fairgrounds
- ◆ Nov. 26-Dec. 24 **Merry & Bright Christmas Lights**, Mercer Co. Fairgrounds, Thursdays & Sundays 6-9 pm, Fridays & Saturdays 6-10pm
- ◆ Nov. 26-Dec. 24 **Mercy Health Bright Nights**, Allen Co. Fairgrounds, Thursday – Sunday, 6-9 pm
- ◆ Nov. 30-Dec. 4 **Christmas Tree Festival**, Allen County Museum, Wednesday & Thursday 10 am-5 pm, Friday 10 am-8 pm, Saturday 10 am-5 pm, Sunday 12 pm-5 pm
- ◆ Dec. 2-4 **Children's Hometown Holiday**, downtown Wapakoneta
- ◆ Dec. 2-4 **Winter Wonderland**, craft Show, silent Auction, Christmas tree contest, Van Wert Co. Fairgrounds, Friday 5-9 pm, Saturday 1-7 pm, Sunday 2-7 pm
- ◆ Dec. 3 **Christmas at Apollo Craft Show**, Apollo Career Center, 3325 Shawnee Rd. Lima
- ◆ Dec. 3-4 **Tri State Gun Show**, Allen Co. Fairgrounds, 8:30 am-4:30 pm
- ◆ Dec. 4-5 **Tri State Gun Show**, Allen County Fairgrounds, Sat from 8:30-4 pm, Sun from 8:30-3 pm
- ◆ Dec. 10 **Bells, Brass & Bows**, Veterans Memorial Civic & Convention Center, 7:30 pm, 419-222-5701
- ◆ Dec. 19 **Mannheim Steamroller Christmas**, Veterans Memorial Civic & Convention Center, 7:30 pm
- ◆ Dec. 23-26 **Office closed for Christmas:** Enjoy the holiday with your family!
- ◆ Dec. 30, Jan. 2 **Office closes** at 11:30 am Dec. 30 for New Year's Eve and all day Jan. 2 for New Year's Day
- ◆ Dec. 31 **Never Break the Chain: The Music of Fleetwood Mac**, Veterans Memorial Civic Center, Lima, 7:30 pm, 419-222-5701

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.

