

# HOT LINES



Midwest Electric, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

February 2022

News about your community and cooperative

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www.midwestrec.com

## IMPORTANT MEMBER INFO

### 2022 WORK PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

Midwest Electric is planning \$4.5 million in investments in power reliability and electric operations in 2022 — all without a planned rate increase this year, marking 12 years since the last rate change. Work plans include:

- **Continue the multi-year installation of a SCADA and Distribution Automation system** (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition), which reduces the length of major outages by using automation to remotely and quickly transfer load (or “backfeed”) from one substation to another. The goal is to make this switching capability available system-wide to 17 substations.
- **Underground line rebuilds** are budgeted for the Meadowbrook subdivision (Cridersville), Beverly Hills subdivision (Wapakoneta), and Southmoor Shores subdivision (St. Marys). **No overhead line rebuilds are planned, as Midwest Electric has reached the milestone of replacing all old copper overhead lines.**
- **Pole testing** in the Lake Substation area. All 33,000 of Midwest Electric’s poles are tested on a 10-year cycle for sturdiness and reliability. Typically, less than 1 percent fail the test; those are replaced.

- **Tree trimming**

in the Moulton, Cridersville, Amanda, Elida, and Kossuth substations. Tree pruning is performed on a five-year cycle throughout the co-op’s 1,532 miles of power line. Trees and branches are a primary cause of power outages and blinking lights.

- **Buying new equipment**, which includes a 60-foot bucket truck, transformers, line reclosers, regulators, and poles. This also includes an Automatic Vehicle Location System, for enhanced safety and dispatching.

- **Additional information technology (IT) hardware and software** as technology expands deeper into our electric operations areas such as digital electric meters, SCADA, and remote monitoring and control.

For updates on construction throughout the year, follow Midwest Electric on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. Have questions about upcoming work? Please call our office.



## Get your \$2 bill credit\* with smart hub

Subscribe to SmartHub’s e-bill and autopay feature (paperless billing and automatic payment), and you’ll receive a monthly \$2 credit on your electric bill.

With a SmartHub account, you can:

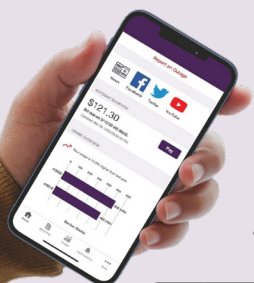
- Register for recurring credit or debit card payments or have your payment securely deducted from your bank account.
- Activate electronic billing (ensure timely receipt of your bill).
- Enroll in email or text reminders.

- Update your billing address and contact information.

- Sign up for outage notifications and energy use alerts.

*\*You will receive the monthly credits (\$1 for e-bill and \$1 for autopay) for as long as you remain subscribed to the services.*

To create a SmartHub account, visit [midwestrec.com](http://midwestrec.com) and click the red SmartHub Bill Pay button at the top. You will need your account number. You can also download the free mobile app (instructions below) to have your account details at your fingertips 24/7/365.



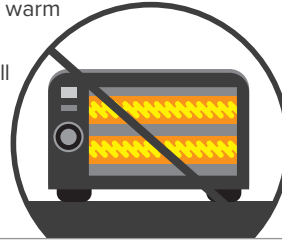
Download the app by searching for “SmartHub” on the Apple Store or Android Market. Once the app is open, type in “Midwest Electric” as the provider. (The login is the same for both the website and mobile app.)



# Tips to Ditch the Space Heater

Space heaters are energy hogs, and older models can be extremely dangerous. This winter, ditch the space heater and try these alternative solutions to stay cozy.

- Use an electric blanket to keep warm during the night.
- Caulk and weatherstrip around all windows and doors to prevent heat loss.
- Consider adding insulation to your attic and around duct work.



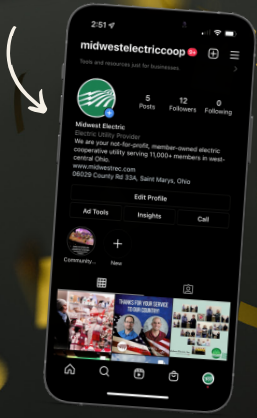
Someone you know could have **unclaimed patronage cash waiting for them!**

Check at [midwestrec.com](http://midwestrec.com). Click the "My Coop" tab, then "Patronage Cash Back." The list of names is also run in our Ohio Cooperative Living magazine.



## DID YOU HEAR THE NEWS? WE'RE ON INSTAGRAM!

Check it out!



You could win a set of Amazon smart plugs, compatible with Alexa devices. Follow our Instagram page to find contest details:



@MIDWESTELECTRICCOOP

### Run for our board of directors



Three of the eight seats on the co-op board of directors are up for election. Any member residing in a district up for election may become a candidate by obtaining a petition form from the co-op's office and getting at least 15 valid

signatures of members residing in that district.

For 2022's elections, petitions may be filed by members who reside in the following districts:

**District 1 (3-year term): Auglaize and Shelby counties**

**District 3 (3-year term): Van Wert County**

**District 4 (3-year term): Mercer and Darke counties**

To obtain a petition form or learn more about what being a director entails, call our office at 800-962-3830. Petitions are due by May 2 at 8 a.m. in our office.

## Community Calendar

- ◆ Feb. 5 **Wapakoneta Chocolate Walk**, Family Life Center of Auglaize Co.
- ◆ Feb. 5-6 **Tri State Gun Show**, Allen Co. Fairgrounds, Lima, [allencofair.com](http://allencofair.com)
- ◆ Feb. 12 **Sweet Heart Dance**, Romers Catering, St Henry, [romerscatering.com](http://romerscatering.com)
- ◆ Feb. 12 **American Voices**, Lima Symphony Orchestra, Lima, [limasympphony.com](http://limasympphony.com)
- ◆ Feb. 12 **An American in Paris**, Niswonger Performing Arts Center, Van Wert, [vanwertlive.com](http://vanwertlive.com)
- ◆ Feb. 15 **Ballet Folklorico de Mexico**, Veterans Memorial Civic Center, Lima, [limaciviccenter.com](http://limaciviccenter.com)
- ◆ Feb. 19 **Lima Black Multicultural Expo 2022**, Veterans Memorial Civic Center, Lima, [limablackexpo.com](http://limablackexpo.com)
- ◆ Feb. 22 **The Polish Wieniawski Philharmonic**, Niswonger Performing Arts Center, Van Wert, [vanwertlive.com](http://vanwertlive.com)
- ◆ Feb. 26 **Dry Bar Comedy Tour**, Overdrive, Celina, [theoverdrive.com](http://theoverdrive.com)
- ◆ Feb. 26-27 **Shipshewana on the Road**, Allen Co. Fairgrounds, Lima, [allencofair.com](http://allencofair.com)
- ◆ Feb. 27 **2022 Wedding Expo**, Quellhorst Farm Venue, Wapakoneta, [quellhorstfarmvenue.com](http://quellhorstfarmvenue.com)