

HOT LINES

July 2025

News about your community and cooperative



Midwest Electric, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

SUMMER HOURS: Monday through Thursday 6:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

419.394.4110
www.midwestrec.com

IMPORTANT MEMBER INFO

2025 Annual Meeting

More than 1,000 members attend 88th annual meeting for co-op updates, dinner, and more.



An update on power supply shortages was the main discussion at Midwest Electric's 88th annual meeting held at St. Marys Memorial High School on the evening of June 5. About 1,000 members, families, and guests attended and enjoyed pony rides, a dinner buffet, kids' games, bounce houses, a health fair, and more.

Adam Howe of St. Marys Memorial High School, son of Chris and Sarah Howe, was the winner of the \$1,000 scholarship drawing, and numerous members won a total of \$2,000 in cash prizes.

Director election results were announced with each candidate serving a three-year term on the board:

- Steve Bauer (District 1: Auglaize and Shelby counties)
- Kathy Brake (District 3: Van Wert County)
- Jim Wiechart (District 4: Mercer and Darke counties)

CEO Matt Berry addressed January's extreme cold, which led to a record winter power peak across the 13-state regional grid. Power was tight, but the grid operator maintained stability by canceling maintenance outages, activating peaking plants, and halting power exports.

Berry warned that rapid growth in data centers and early shutdowns of traditional power plants are straining the system, especially as much of the new generation is

intermittent. However, Buckeye Power's strategy of owning its generation assets has helped keep rates lower than major utilities. Buckeye Power CEO Craig Grooms highlighted strong plant performance during extreme weather and emphasized ongoing investment and smart regulation to shield co-op members from rising transmission costs.

Board President Jim Wiechart announced plans for a new three-year strategic plan and invited member feedback on what the co-op should start, stop, or continue doing. Members were thanked for attending and encouraged to stay engaged.



Community Calendar

- ◆ July 3-4 **St. Joseph Church Festival**, Auglaize County Fairgrounds, Wapakoneta, facebook.com/stjoe4th
- ◆ July 4 **SMART First Fridays St. Marys**, Downtown St. Marys, (419) 778-9353
- ◆ July 4-6 **St. Henry Community Picnic**, St. Henry, facebook.com/p/St-Henry-Community-Picnic-100064697166288
- ◆ July 10-12 **Cridersville Fireman's Jamboree**, villageofcridersville.com/firemans-jamboree
- ◆ July 15-20 **Summer Moon Festival**, Downtown Wapakoneta, summermoonfestival.com
- ◆ July 18-19 **Boardwalk Fest**, Celina, facebook.com/boardwalkcelinaohio
- ◆ July 18 **Zion United Methodist Church Ice Cream Social**, 4 p.m.-7 p.m., 9290 Zion Church Rd, Elida
- ◆ July 25-26 **NTPA Tractor Pulls**, Ambassador Park, Ft. Recovery, fortpull.com
- ◆ July 25-27 **Celina Lake Festival**, Lake Shore Drive, Celina, (419) 586-0993, celinalakefest.com
- ◆ July 28-Aug. 3 **Auglaize County Fair**, Wapakoneta, auglaizecountyfair.org

WE NEED YOU TO JOIN THE CCF BOARD!

Help allocate charitable funding with only four meetings per year!

The Community Connection Fund is looking for three trustees (one from Auglaize County, one from Mercer County, and one from Allen/Putnam counties) to serve on the CCF Board. Terms expire this fall for current trustees.

The CCF board meets four times per year to review grant applications (which are sent to trustees in advance) and decide where funds can make the most impact. No special background is necessary for this appointed position.

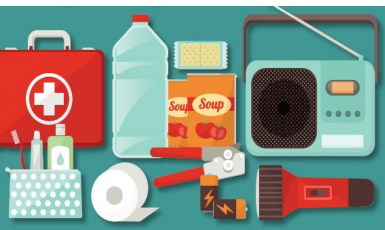
If you are interested, please contact Joel Johns for an application at jjohns@midwestrec.com or call 419-394-4110. **The deadline is Sept. 5, 2025.**

DID YOU KNOW...

The average home can be powered for **TWO FULL DAYS** for about the same cost as ten of your favorite chicken wings.



When the power goes out, prioritize safety and preparedness.



If you find yourself without power check for tripped circuit breakers first. If you find none report the outage to us. Keep refrigerators and freezers closed to preserve food, unplug appliances to prevent surges, and use flashlights or battery-powered lamps for light. If the outage is prolonged, consider going to a public facility with heat or air conditioning, depending on the weather.

Here's a more detailed breakdown:

1. Check for Local Outages:

Verify if your neighbors are also without power:

This can help determine if the outage is widespread or if the problem is within your home.

Check your fuse box or circuit breaker panel:

A blown fuse or tripped breaker could indicate a problem within your home that you can resolve.

2. Report the Outage:

Contact us via phone or via the SmartHub app:

Report the outage to let us know. Also note if you heard or saw anything, as this can help our crews find the problem sooner.

3. Prioritize Safety:

Preserve Food:

Keep refrigerators and freezers closed as long as possible to

prevent food spoilage. An unopened refrigerator will stay cold for about 4 hours, and a freezer for 24-48 hours.

Protect Electronics:

Unplug or turn off all appliances and electronics to prevent potential damage from surges when the power returns.

Use Safe Lighting:

Utilize flashlights or battery-powered lamps for lighting instead of candles.

Stay Informed:

Check online for updates on the outage.

4. Plan for Prolonged Outages:

Consider Backup Power:

If the outage is expected to be long, you might consider a generator (used outdoors and away from windows) or other backup power options.

Plan for Heat or Cooling:

If the weather is extreme, plan to go to a public facility like a library, community center, or shopping mall that offers heat or air conditioning.

Have a Plan for Medical Needs:

If you or someone in your household has medical devices that require power, have a backup plan for their use.

Prepare an Emergency Kit:

Ensure you have essential supplies like flashlights, battery-powered radio, first-aid kit, and non-perishable food.