

HOT LINES



Midwest Electric, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

February 2020

News about your community and cooperative

419.394.4110 | 1.800.962.3830

www.midwestrec.com

IMPORTANT MEMBER INFO

2020 WORK PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

Midwest Electric is planning \$5.6 million in investments in power reliability and electric operations in 2020 — all without a rate increase planned for this year barring unforeseen circumstances. Work plans include:

- **Continuing installation of a supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system**, which will reduce the length of major outages by using automation to remotely and quickly transfer load (or “backfeed”) from one source to another. Currently, a main feeder outage could last three hours or more. After distribution automation, an outage could last 15 minutes. The goal is to eventually make this switching capability available system-wide to 17 substations and metering points. In 2020, the project will continue in Rockford, Jonestown, and Spencerville areas, as well as Cridersville substation.
- **A budgeted 15 miles of single-phase line rebuilding** in the Chickasaw, Kossuth, Lake, and Noble substation and metering point areas, and budgeting for the rebuild of 2.5 miles of transmission line connecting our Marathon and Macedon substations. These involve replacing old copper lines with higher-strength aluminum and replacing poles where needed.

- **Underground line rebuilds** are budgeted for the Meadowbrook subdivision (Cridersville), Beverly Hills subdivision (Wapakoneta), and Southmoor Shores subdivision (St. Marys).

- **Purchasing a new 50-foot digger derrick truck and a 41-foot bucket truck, as well as other equipment.**

- **Pole testing** in the Chickasaw metering point area. All 33,000 of Midwest Electric’s poles are tested on a 10-year cycle for sturdiness and reliability.

- **Tree trimming** in the Noble, Jonestown, Rockford, Spencerville, Macedon, Sharpsburg, St. Henry, Coldwater, and Chickasaw substation areas. Tree pruning is performed on a five-year cycle throughout the co-op’s 1,522 miles of line.

Have questions about upcoming construction in your area? Give our office a call at 800-962-3830.



No rate increase since 2010 — 10 years of stability

*Value
and
stability
for your
family*

That's the
cooperative
difference.

Someone you know could have unclaimed cash waiting for them!

Check at midwestrec.com. Click the "My Coop" tab, then "Patronage Cash Back."

5 WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL



1) ONLINE: Visit www.midwestrec.com and click "Pay Bill" to access your SmartHub account (or create one). You can also download the free SmartHub app for mobile devices.

2) BY PHONE: Call 1-800-962-3830. You can pay with a check or debit/credit card via phone.

3) IN PERSON: Stop by our office or use our 24/7 drop box at 06029 County Road 33A in St. Marys. Or you can pay at a MoneyGram pay station near you.

4) BY MAIL: Just drop your payment off at the post office!

5) AUTO-PAY OR AVERAGE BILLING: Call to set up an electronic funds transfer, which automatically pays your bill for you each month. You can also even out monthly payments by enrolling in average billing to avoid variations and "surprise" high bills. This is great for families or individuals wanting to better budget their finances.

Meter tampering is illegal and dangerous



State law requires the co-op to notify our members once each year that meter tampering and the theft of electricity are illegal and dangerous. Ohio law now sets penalties and fines for these illegal acts:

1. Tampering with or bypassing an electric meter or attachment with the intent to steal electricity.
2. Knowingly using electricity that has not been correctly registered because of tampering.
3. Reconnecting electric service that has been disconnected by cooperative personnel.
4. Knowingly consuming electricity that's been unlawfully reconnected.

We know that most of our members would not engage in this dishonest action. But, just as with shoplifting, the actions of a few can cause higher rates for everyone. If you know of or suspect unlawful practices, please report them to Midwest Electric.

HEADS UP

Electric bill redesign coming soon!

Why is my bill being redesigned?

- We care about our members and want everyone to easily understand their electric bill at a glance. These adjustments will improve bill navigation.
- This is not an increase; it is simply a face lift for your electric bill based on feedback we've received.
- The redesign will take effect on electric bills this spring. Stay tuned for details.

Community Calendar

- ◆ Feb. 1 **Winter Dance Party**, Niswonger Performing Arts, Van Wert (419-238-6722)
- ◆ Feb. 1-2 **Tri-State Gun Show**, Allen County Fairgrounds Lima, tristategunshow.org (419-647-0067)
- ◆ Feb. 3 **Red Cross Blood Drive**, American Legion Hall, New Bremen (800-733-2767)
- ◆ Feb. 8 **"Mad Love,"** Lima Symphony Orchestra, Veterans Memorial Civic Center, Lima, limasymphony.com (419-222-5701)
- ◆ Feb. 9 **J&M Collectibles Motorcycle Swap Meet**, Allen Co. Fairgrounds (419-795-4185)
- ◆ Feb. 14 **"The Greatest Love" - A Whitney Houston Tribute**, Niswonger Performing Arts, Van Wert (419-238-6722)
- ◆ Feb. 29 **"Little Texas,"** Niswonger Performing Arts, Van Wert (419-238-6722)