



# Jay County REMC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

484 S 200 W  
P.O. Box 904, Portland, IN 47371

## PHONE NUMBERS & HOURS

Local ..... (260) 726-7121  
Toll Free ..... (800) 835-7362  
Fax ..... (260) 726-6240  
E-mail ..... remc@JayREMC.com  
Web Site ..... [www.JayREMC.com](http://www.JayREMC.com)

### To report an outage or emergency

Call (260) 726-7121 or  
(800) TEL-REMC (835-7362)

**24 hours a day, 7 days a week**

Be ready to provide the following information:

1. Name under which the electric service is listed.
2. Map location number.
3. Your phone number in case we need to call you back.
4. The type of problem you are experiencing, e.g., flickering lights, complete power outage, etc.
5. Hang up when all information has been recorded — other members may be trying to contact the REMC, too.

**Office hours: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Monday-Friday**



**Have a safe  
and happy holiday  
from your Jay County  
REMC directors  
and employees.**

## co-opNews

### Board of director election petitions available

The 2006 annual meeting is scheduled for April 8. There are four directors' seats up for reelection. Those seats are District One, District Three, District Five and District Seven.

District One is represented by Wm. Harold Smith. District One is all the area in Niles Township in Delaware County and north of Dunkirk on the Jay-Blackford County line to Jay County Road 300 S, then east to State Road 1, then south to the Jay-Randolph County line, then back west to the Jay-Delaware County line, excluding a one mile strip north along the Blackford-Delaware County line.

District Three is represented by Richard Paxson. District Three is all of the area in Penn and Knox townships north of Highway 26 west of Highway 1 in Jay County and those consumers that are in Nottingham Township in Wells County, and those in Harrison and Jackson Townships in Blackford County, except for those in a one mile wide strip along the Blackford-Delaware County line.

Michael Ninde represents District Five. District Five is the area in Jay County in Wabash and

Bearcreek Townships bounded on the north by the Jay-Adams County line, on the east by the Indiana-Ohio state line, on the south by County Road 300 N, and on the west by U.S. 27.

District Seven is represented by Tom Zimmerman. The area in Jay County that is bounded on the west by U.S. 27, on the east by the Indiana-Ohio state line, on the north by Jay County Road 300 N and on the south by Jay County Road 300 S makes up District Seven.

Interested parties need to pick up a petition at the Jay County REMC after Dec. 1, and return the petition by Jan. 10, 2006. Any qualified member of the Jay County REMC may run for a seat on the board of directors by getting 15 Jay County REMC members to sign a petition of support.

To qualify you must take electric service at your primary residence in the district that is being contested in order to be an eligible candidate. The member who signs the petition does not have to live in the district up for election.

If you have any questions please feel free to call the REMC at (800) 835-7263 or (260) 726-7121.

### Free Automatic Payment Plan now available

The Automatic Payment Plan (APP) is a service that draws funds from your checking or savings account to pay your monthly electric bill.

The payment is made automatically each month. This service is available to any customer, including those enrolled in the budget billing plan. There is no charge for this service from Jay County REMC or your financial institution.

Once you are enrolled in the APP, you will receive a bill each month that says, "Bank draft do not pay." We will withdraw payments from your account one to three days prior to the due date on your bill.

If you are interested in the APP, fill out the authorization form below and **attach a check marked "VOID," or a deposit slip** from your bank account. Mail these items to Jay County REMC at P.O. Box 904, Portland, IN 47371.

**The enrollment process may take approximately two billing cycles to complete. Meter readings are still required. Please read your meter and send or phone reading to the REMC by the 5th of each month.**

If you have questions concerning the Automatic Payment Plan, contact Carla Sibery, billing coordinator, at (260) 726-7121 or (800) 835-7362.

#### Authorization for enrollment in the Automatic Payment Plan

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone no. ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Jay County REMC Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

Your Financial Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ Checking \_\_\_\_\_ Savings \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize Jay County REMC to draw monthly bank drafts on my account shown above for the payment of my monthly electric bill. I understand that I can discontinue my participation in the APP by notifying Jay County REMC in writing. Both Jay County REMC and my financial institution may also terminate this agreement with 10 days written notice. I understand that Jay County REMC reserves the right to limit participation in the APP to customers whose accounts are in good standing.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



# One more thing to hang on your tree!

With Jay County REMC you can trust that our low rate has no hidden fees or charges. We offer rates as low as 4.9¢\* per minute for all long distance calls within the continental United States! Call today for details!

- **ONLY 4.9¢\* PER MINUTE** when you sign up for a one-year term and Ebill!
- **ONLY 5.9¢\* PER MINUTE** for in-state & state-to-state calling with no term!
- **Personal Toll-Free number and calling cards available!**
- **Great low international rates around the world!**
- **BUSINESS CUSTOMERS:** Send in a copy of your latest invoice and we will provide a **FREE** business analysis of your potential savings!
- **You don't have to be a Jay County REMC customer to join!**

## 1-888-610-4529



\*Taxes and other regulatory charges not included. Domestic rates apply within the contiguous 48 states. Certain restrictions and early termination fees apply. Please call for details. Services provided by TransWorld Network.

# Santa's safety suggestions

The Christmas Club check has been cashed and spent. Now, thoughts are turning to decorating the home. There is nothing that smells more like the holiday season than a fresh cut Christmas tree. As our thoughts of sugar plums dance in our heads we also have to remember a few safety suggestions from Santa.

Santa suggests these safety tips:

## The tree

- If tree is real, make sure it does not lose needles when tapped on the ground.
- Cut one inch off the trunk to help with water absorption.
- The tree stand holds at least one gallon of water and is refilled at least every two days.
- The water level is checked daily.
- Secure the tree so it does not tip.
- If tree is artificial, it has been labeled with UL approval.
- It is positioned away from floor heaters, fireplaces, and other heat sources.
- It is not blocking any stairways or entrances.

## The lights

- You are using only UL-approved lights, and have linked no more than three strands together.
- You are using only indoor lights indoors, and outdoor lights outdoors.
- You have checked every strand for broken or cracked sockets, loose connections, or frayed wires.
- All damaged sets have been discarded. All lights are securely fastened.
- There are no overloaded wall outlets or extension cords.
- All outdoor electrical connections are above the ground out of puddles and snow.
- If the tree is metallic, only spot lights are used, not strings of electrical lights.
- Outdoor trees hung with lights are not touching power lines.
- You turn off the Christmas lights when you go to sleep, or if you leave your home for very long.

## Candles

- All candles are placed in sturdy containers.
- They are a safe distance from combustibles.
- They are extinguished before you go to bed.



## Decorations

- Old decorations that may contain lead, such as old tinsel and icicles, have been discarded.
- Natural decorations, such as holly berries and mistletoe are kept out of the reach of small children.
- You are properly protected when decorating with spun glass "angel hair" and artificial snow sprays.
- Breakable ornaments are placed at the top of the tree, away from pets and children.

## Fireplaces

- The flue is open.
- All decorations are a safe distance away.
- Hot ashes are placed in a metal container until they are cold.
- You exercise caution when using "fire salts" which create colored flames.
- You do not burn wrapping papers or evergreen boughs. Flash fires could result from the intense burning and jumping sparks.

## General

- You have installed a smoke detector, or new batteries in the one that you already have.
  - You have installed at least one carbon monoxide detector.
  - An operable fire extinguisher is readily available.
- Have a safe and happy holiday from the directors and employees of the Jay County REMC.

# Scam alert

## Dial-Up Internet modem switch scam

Most consumers that access the Internet with a dial-up connection are susceptible to this scam.

### How the scam works?

Some Web sites will trick consumers into paying to access "free" Internet content. Your computer connects to the Internet with a local telephone number. However, you may click on a pop-up or download a site that disconnects your local connection and reconnects using another, unauthorized phone number in an International location. This results in expensive long distance phone charges for the consumer. This switch is often made **without your knowledge or approval!** Some consumers have had charges of over \$1,000 because of this scam! To help minimize the chances of becoming a victim, please consider one of the following:

**1) Request an International Call Block** on your line, if you have no need to place international calls. This can be done by contacting TWN.

**2) Add an Account Code** to your TWN long distance account if you have the need to place international calls. Doing this will require that an access code be dialed prior to **any** direct dialed, long distance call being completed by TWN.

For more information, please visit the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) <<http://www.ftc.gov>> and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) <<http://www.fcc.gov>>. Both are aware of this scheme and have issued alerts to help raise consumer awareness.

If you have further questions, please contact TWN's Customer Service Center at (800) 950-3015.

## When shoveling snow...

Snow may look puffy and light, but anyone who's shoveled will tell you that it's hard work. Having the right equipment can help. Be sure you have a sturdy shovel with a long handle. This will reduce the strain placed on your back while shoveling.

Always bend at the knee and lift from your legs, to reduce strain on your back and heart.

Do a few stretching exercises beforehand so the work doesn't come as a shock to your system. Stretching when you finish can help your muscles cool down, decreasing the soreness you may experience the next day.

Since most body heat escapes through your head, wearing a hat can help. Gloves and warm boots should also be worn. Clear snow as soon as it stops falling. Freshly fallen snow is lighter than snow that has melted slightly and become more dense and heavy.

Don't eat, drink, or smoke before shoveling. All of these put a strain on your heart.

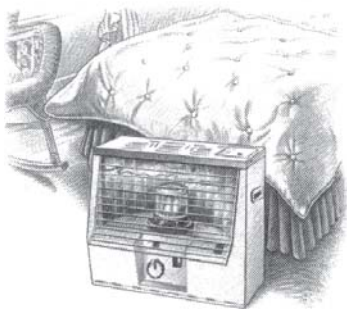
If you are normally inactive or already at risk for heart attack, shoveling snow can be dangerous.

**Jay County REMC  
will be closed  
Friday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 26,  
and Friday, Dec. 30, and Monday, Jan. 1,  
for the Christmas  
and New Year's holidays.**



# Be careful when using electric space heaters

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates that in 1994, electric space heaters were associated with 2,400 fires resulting 80 deaths, 240 injuries and \$48.2 million in property loss.



## The problem

Even though electric space heaters don't have an open flame, the heating elements of some types of electric heaters are hot enough to ignite nearby combustibles like draperies, paper, clothing, furniture, and flammable liquids.

It is, therefore, important to check surrounding objects periodically to see if they feel hot. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions to see how far the heater should be placed from combustible materials, and for how far the heater should be placed from the floor so that carpeting or flooring materials don't ignite. Additionally, to prevent electrocutions, always keep portable electric heaters away from water, never use them in a bathroom or near a sink. (If you must use an appliance near water, always use a ground fault circuit interrupter).

CPSC recommends the following when selecting an electric heater:

- Look for one that is listed with a nationally-recognized testing laboratory. These heaters have been tested to meet specific safety standards, and manufacturers are required to provide important use and care information to the consumer. On heaters that are not listed, consumers have less assurance that the safety features and operating instructions are adequate.

- Purchase a heater with a guard around the heating element. A wire grill or other protection is essential to keep fingers or fabrics from touching the hot element. Portable electric heaters that heat by circulating oil or water, however, usually have lower surface temperatures and may not need guards.

- Before using the heater, read and follow the instructions for its operation and maintenance.

- If you must use an extension cord, make sure it is a heavy duty cord marked with a No. 14 gauge or larger wire. An incorrectly-sized cord may create a fire hazard. If the heater's plug has a grounding prong, use only a grounding (three-wire) extension cord.

- Never run the heater's cord (or any cord) under rugs or carpeting.

- Do not leave the heater operating unattended or operating while sleeping. Portable electric air heaters are designed for use only as temporary supplemental heating and only while attended.

- To prevent electrical shocks and electrocutions, always keep portable electric heaters away from water and never touch an electric heater if you are wet.

## Safety tips

- Do not use an electric heater as a dryer by placing clothing over it and never use it heater to thaw pipes.

- Keep the heater in safe working condition. Replace missing guards and controls at once.

Never operate a defective heater.

- Don't place the heater where children might play near it or where people might trip over or bump into it.

- Place the heater on a level surface for stability.

- Regardless of the type of heating system you have, install and maintain at least one smoke detector that is in good working condition on each floor of your home. — *Consumer Product Safety Commission*

## SIDE LINES

*Courtesy of Berne Chamber of Commerce*

**Dec. 3-4: Presentation of "The Messiah" at the First Mennonite Church in Berne.** Info: (260) 589-8080.

**Dec. 10: Christmas Open House, Limberlost State Historic Site in Geneva.** Info: (260) 368-7428.

*Courtesy of Portland Chamber of Commerce*

**Dec. 3: Christmas Ornament Auction.** 6:30 p.m., General Shanks Elementary School. Sponsored by the Jay County Cancer Society. Info: (260) 726-4151, (260) 726-6255, or (260) 726-4641.

**Dec. 10: Boots and Spurs Swap Meet.** Jay County Fairgrounds, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Info: (260) 726-6433.

**Dec. 12: Jay County's 19th Annual Farm Toy Sale.** Jay County Fairgrounds. Admission charge. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Info: (260) 726-6433.

*Courtesy of Winchester Chamber of Commerce*  
**Dec. 6: Historic Farmland's Own Holiday Evening, Christmas Walk.** 5-9 p.m. Artisans, raffles and refreshments provided by merchants.

Info: (765) 468-7030.

**Dec. 8: Winchester Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Old Fashioned Christmas Festival.** Downtown Winchester. 5:30-8 p.m. Entertainment, artisans, craftsman, prizes, refreshments provided by merchants. Info: (765) 584-3731.

**Dec. 10: Carryout Chicken BBQ.** Sponsored by Union City Chamber of Commerce. Info: (765)964-5409.

## CO-OP NOTES

### Important dates

Electric bills due the fifth of every month. Read meter on the 20th of every month.

### \$50 cash drawing winner

Congratulations to Jill Yoder, 4774 E, 300 S, Monroe, IN 46772 for winning the \$50 monthly drawing in *Electric Consumer* for October.

### Congratulations

Joe Magee of Union City for winning the television and Clark Muhlenkamps, son of Chad and Candace Muhlenkamps of Portland for winning the bicycle given away during National Cooperative Month.

## \$50 monthly drawing for bills dated Dec. 20 and paid by Dec. 29.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ACCOUNT NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: To be eligible for the drawing, your coupon and payment must be in the office by 4:30 p.m. on the last working day of the month.