



**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

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**



Happy Easter
from the employees
and board of directors
of Jay County REMC

**Jay County REMC
2005 Annual Meeting**

Saturday, April 9

**Jay County High School Auditorium
Highway 67, Portland, next to the REMC**

6-7 p.m. –Registration

**6 p.m. to end of program – Kids’
program in the commons and
gym. Games and food chaperoned
by Fellowship Baptist Youth Group.**

6 p.m. – Member Business Expo

6:15 p.m. – Entertainment: The Tom Frye Band

7 p.m. – Business meeting

Board reports

Attendance gifts

Door prizes



| APRIL | | | | | | |
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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

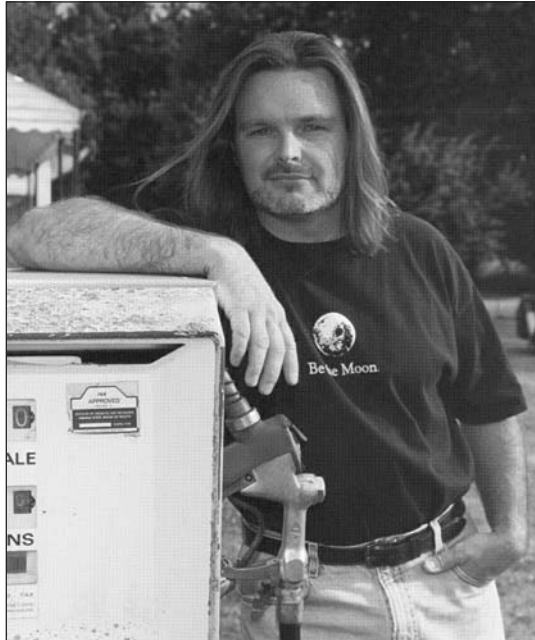


The Tom Frye Band to entertain at annual meeting

Tom Frye, a local singer/songwriter, and son of Jay County REMC members Steve and Mary Lou Frye, will be entertaining the crowd at the 2005 annual meeting to be held April 9 at Jay County High School.

As a young boy, Frye took piano lessons from Katherine Beard and later from Ruth Montgomery. But it wasn't till his sophomore year at Ball State University that he started playing guitar. After about a year at the guitar "Songwriting just seemed to be a natural progression," Frye said. After returning home from college he began leading worship at the Sardinia Church in Bryant.

Frye is a graduate of Jay County High School and Ball State University, where he studied telecommunications. He has been a member of the sales staff at Adams County Radio WZBD and WPGW in Portland for a number of years. He and his wife, Lisa, are the parents of three children; Kaylyn, 10; Maggie, 9; and Jonathon 7. Frye's children are planning on joining their



Tom Frye

"People hear different things, and I'm not sure how much I sound like any one person, but there have been many songwriters, from several genres of music, that have influenced me over the years."

dad for a couple of songs at the annual meeting.

"People hear different things, and I'm not sure how much I sound like any one person, but there have been many songwriters, from several genres of music, that have influenced me over the years, including Rich Mullins, Mitch McVicker, Andrew Peterson, John Prine, John Mellencamp, John Hiatt and Ronnie Van Zant," says Frye.

Among Frye's musical highlights include

opening appearances for several Contemporary Christian music artists, most notably Dove Award Winner Mitch McVicker and the Christian Music folk rock troubadour eLi.

Joining Frye at the annual meeting will be Todd Fiechter on percussion. Fiechter, a native of Bluffton, studied music at Indiana Purdue Fort Wayne and now works at Markey's Audio Visual. When he's not working he enjoys recording Christian artists at a studio he started in 2003. Fiechter and his wife, Brandi, attend Life Community Church, which is ironically in the same building where he attended high school.

Adam Koehler will also be on stage with Frye. Koehler plays rhythm guitar, bass guitar, percussion, and sings background vocals. Koehler and his wife, Holly, live in their hometown of Berne, with their cat, Saturday. Koehler is employed at Smith Brothers of Berne, Inc., and is studying business management at Indiana Tech. Koehler attends First Mennonite Church of Berne, where he's involved in several ministries at the church, including youth band sponsor, worship team and outreach ministries.

A native of Franklin, Tenn., Brent Bowman plays rhythm and bass guitar. Bowman and his family now reside in Fort Wayne. Bowman is employed at Markey's Audio Visual in Fort Wayne. Bowman enjoys music and in addition to sitting in with Frye, he is also a member of the country music band, Change of Pace.

Please join us on April 9 for an evening fine entertainment.

Candidate profiles

Three Jay County REMC members submitted a valid signed petition to run for a seat on the board of directors. Steve Ritchie, Allen Hilfiker and Steven Affolder will be elected at the 2005 annual meeting.

DISTRICT 4

Steve Ritchie is a lifetime resident of Jay County. Steve and his wife, Jill, live in rural Bryant. They have two grown children: Jennifer and Spencer.

Steve has owned and operated a farm operation in Jay County for over 35 years. He served in the United States Army for two years, which included a one-year tour in Vietnam.

Steve currently is employed by Land O' Lakes, Inc., as a district sales manager in its seed division. He is a graduate of Portland High School and attended Ivy Tech. Steve has served on the Jay County REMC board for 15 years. During Steve's tenure as a board member he has served on various committees including finance, membership and public relations and operations.



Steve Ritchie

DISTRICT 8

Allen Hilfiker has been a resident of Jay County all his life. Allen and his wife, Sue, have two sons: Scott and Brett. They also have four grandchildren: Dusty, Samantha, Caitlin, and Erin.

Allen has been engaged in farming for 40 years. He operates a hog and chicken business in rural Salamonina.

Allen worked at Jay Petroleum from 1978 to 1990. Allen is a volunteer fireman for the Salamonina Fire Department. He is a member of the St. James Lutheran Church in Salamonina. Allen has been on the Jay County REMC board for 23 years and served as board chairman for seven years. Allen has been on the employee relations and operation and finance committees.



Allen Hilfiker

DISTRICT 10

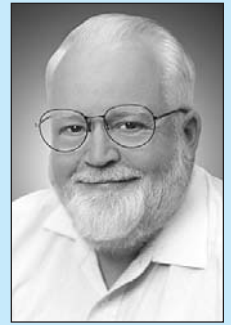
Steven Affolder has lived in Adams County for 33 years. Prior to moving to Adams County he lived in Wells County.

Steven and his wife, Judy, have five children: Michelle, Penny, Dan, Sam, and Kriss.

Steven owns Affolder Machine Shop and Affolder Enterprises. Steven has been the French Township trustee in Adams County for the past 22 years.

He is a member of the National Association of Self-Employed (NASE), Farm Bureau, and past officer on the Adams County Sheriff's Reserve Department.

He has served on the Jay County REMC board for six years. Steve has been on the membership and public relations committee.



Steven Affolder

Jellybean Prayer

*RED is for the blood He gave
GREEN is for the grass He made
YELLOW is for His sun so bright
BLACK is for the sin we made
WHITE is for the grace He gave
PURPLE is for the hours of sorrow
PINK is for our new tomorrow
A bag of jellybeans, colorful and sweet,
Is a prayer, is a promise, is a child's
treat.
May joy be yours this Easter Season!*

Happy Easter
From the Directors and Employees of
Jay County REMC

**Jay County REMC
will be closed March 25**

Jay County REMC Member Business EXPO

The 2005 Jay County REMC annual meeting will spotlight Jay County REMC members who are business owners.

If you are interested in participating in the Member Business EXPO fill out the application below. This is **no charge** for participating in the REMC Member Business EXPO. The EXPO will be held April 9 prior to the Jay County REMC annual meeting from 6-7:30 p.m.

Member's name _____

Member's map location # _____

Business name _____

Business address _____

Will you be holding a drawing? If yes, what are you giving away?

Special request _____

Jay County REMC will provide signage, a table and two chairs.
Please return to the REMC, attention: Cindy Denney P.O. Box 904, Portland IN 47371 by
March 23.
Space is limited – so please hurry!

American Red Cross woven through time

The American Red Cross, as one of the nation's premier humanitarian organizations, is dedicated to helping people in need throughout the United States and right here in East Central Indiana.

Clara Barton and a circle of acquaintances founded the American Red Cross in Washington, D.C., on May 21, 1881. The Red Cross conducted its first domestic and overseas disaster relief efforts by aiding the United States military during the Spanish-American War. It then received its first congressional charter in 1900. This charter, which remains in effect today, sets forth the purposes of the organization that include giving relief to and serving as a medium of communication between members of the American armed forces and their families and providing local, national and international disaster relief and mitigation.

Prior to World War I, the Red Cross introduced its first aid, water safety, and public health nursing programs. At the military's request during the World War II, the Red Cross also initiated a national blood program that collected 13.3 million pints of blood for use by the armed forces. After World War II, the Red Cross introduced the first nationwide civilian blood program that now supplies nearly 50 percent of the blood in this country.

The Red Cross also expanded its services into such fields as civil defense, CPR/AED training, HIV/ADS education, and the provision of emotional care and support to disaster victims and

their survivors.

While closely associated with the federal government in the promotion of its objectives, the Red Cross is an independent, volunteer-led organization, supported by voluntary public contributions of time, money and blood from people like YOU.

Your local Hoosier Heartland Chapter of the American Red Cross has been serving residents of East Central Indiana for over 85 years. The Red Cross extends a helping hand to offer relief to victims of disaster; keeps military families connected through its emergency communications network; empowers people to save lives through CPR, first aid, AED, water safety and baby-sitting training; and collects blood that is needed 365 days a year. The Hoosier Heartland Chapter is lead by a core group of over 300

volunteers and welcomes your support through your time, money and/or blood contributions. It operates with the highest standard of stewardship, effectiveness and efficiency and would love to hear from you. For more information on volunteering, upcoming blood drives or how you can help support the financial future and growth of the local chapter please contact them at (260) 726-9530, (800) 480-4403 or P.O. Box 1202, Portland, IN 47371. The Jay County REMC salutes the efforts put forth by the Hoosier Heartland Chapter of the American Red Cross.

The American Red Cross efforts made the January 2005 ice storm disaster safer and more tolerable for many residents. Kudos to Jeri Franks and her volunteers.

We appreciate your hard work and dedication.



**Happy St. Patrick's Day
from the employees and
board of directors**

Generating electricity with landfill gas

Turning trash into treasure

There's a reason that garbage really starts to smell after a couple of days. Organic materials like food in the garbage begin to decompose and give off gases. Those gases can be annoying when you're talking about one garbage can — but when you're talking about an entire landfill, the amount of gas can be astounding.

As garbage in a landfill decomposes, it produces large quantities of methane, one of the most foul-smelling gases you'll ever encounter. Methane is also quite flammable, so most landfill operators eliminate it by burning it through what are called flares. If you've driven by a landfill at night, you've probably seen the small flames those flares create.

But some landfills and local electric co-ops are taking a different approach with all that methane. Rather than simply send it into the atmosphere, they're piping it into small power plants and using it to power generators that produce electricity.

One of those plants is under construction at the Jay County Landfill near Redkey. When it is completed this spring, the plant will use four Indiana-made Caterpillar generators to turn that foul-smelling methane into light, heat and entertainment for hundreds of homes and businesses that belong to local electric cooperatives.

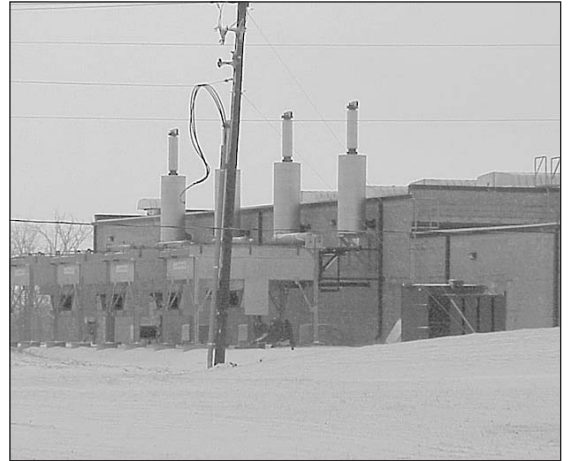
When it's finished, the plant will turn that landfill gas into 3.2 megawatts of electricity. Energy from environmentally friendly sources



Crews lower the first of four engines to be used to operate the new generation plant at the Jay County Landfill.

like this is called EnviroWatts® electricity. A few co-ops distribute it to members who prefer to use 'green' power in their homes and businesses.

John Nill, President/CEO of Jay County REMC said that Wabash Valley Power, the REMC's power supplier, already operates four similar plants at other Indiana landfills. These generators have proven to be reliable and economical sources of power. They operate 24 hours a day, piping gas from vents in the landfill to large internal combustion Caterpillar engines. They're a lot like the engines used by large



Generation plant near completion.

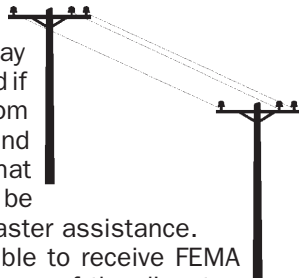
construction equipment.

It's truly a win-win situation for everyone involved. The landfills get paid for something they used to simply burn off, WVPA gets a reliable source of power for the members served, and those same members get the satisfaction of knowing that a part of their energy comes from a source that's friendly to the environment.

So the next time you toss what's left of dinner into the trash, you might look at it a new way. In a few days, those unwanted table scraps could be making your home a brighter place.

SIDE LINES

If you live in Adams, Blackford, Delaware, Jay or Randolph County and if you suffered damage from flooding, ice storms and severe winter storms that began Jan. 1, you may be eligible for federal disaster assistance.



You may be eligible to receive FEMA benefits if you live in one of the disaster-designated counties. Even if you have insurance coverage, you may be eligible for assistance for disaster-related needs.

Assistance that may be available includes:

- Disaster grants to cover temporary housing assistance.
- U.S. Small Business Administration low-interest loans to renters and homeowners to repair homes or replace personal property, as well as assist businesses.
- Replacement grants to help meet serious disaster-related needs and expenses not met by insurance or other programs.

To receive assistance available under the Presidential Major Disaster Declaration you need to call and apply. Individuals with Internet access now have the option to register on the

agency's Web site at <http://www.fema.gov>, where valuable recovery information is also available.

Toll-free application number (800) 621-3362
For those who use TTY: (800) 462-7585

7 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday-Sunday until further notice.

This information courtesy of Indiana State Emergency Management Agency.

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 Alma Eads of Portland for bills paid between Jan. 20 and 29. Look for your chance to win \$50 in this month's issue of *Electric Consumer*.

Please note

Jay County REMC is now accepting Visa, MasterCard and debit cards for bill payments.

\$50 monthly drawing for bills dated March 20 and paid by March 31.

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.

SPOTLIGHT ON BUSINESS

JaMarch in for great deals

by Cindy Denney

Searching for a great deal on a TV or refrigerator or bedding? Search no more. Jay County REMC member Troy Rose has a great deal for you on those big and small household items.

JaMar TV, Appliance and Bedding is celebrating 35 years of service to the community. Rose's in-laws, Jack and Mariana Payne opened this Portland landmark in 1970.

The Paynes' goal to offer area residents affordable appliances represented their belief of true community commitment. This commitment that was recently honored by the Portland Chamber of Commerce. Jack Payne received the Chamber's prestigious lifetime achievement award for his dedication to the community.

Troy and his late wife, Kris, carry on the Payne family goals and beliefs by continuing to play a vital role in the area. Kris not only helped her husband manage the store, she made certain JaMar was visible in the community by sponsoring teams, events and serving on a variety of committees including acting as secretary for the Portland Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

Under the Roses' direction, JaMar moved the well-known appliance store to its current location at 1250 W. Votaw, Portland, in 1981. Moving the store was not the only change the Roses wanted for the store. In 1989 JaMar became a member of Brand Source. "Brand Source is a national buying group that enables the small store owner to purchase products like the big boys" according to Shauna Runkle, Rose's daughter and business partner. "Whirlpool, Kitchen Aid, Estate, Frigidaire, Fisher Paykel, are the white appliances here at JaMar. Small appliances such as electronics come from RCA, GE Electronics, Oreck, Eureka, Benis, and Bio-Zone which Brand Source can obtain for us," Troy said.

Re-evaluating product line is a recommended practice for most business owners. Rose and Runkle did such a re-evaluation on the product line offered at the store. They decided a need existed for quality bedding. In 2001 bedding was added to the list of merchandise available from JaMar. Simmons box springs and mattresses can be purchased at the store. These are very comfortable mattresses, according to Miranda Denney. Personally, I don't know why she thought she needed a new mattress. Hers was less than 30 years old.

I guess nothing lasts forever. That includes appliances as well. The life expectancy of a typical large appliance is 12-15 years for the average family.

What is the definition of average? Do I consider us average? Yeah. Do I think we do more laundry than the average family? Maybe! The Denney household is on its third washing machine and dryer. I think I would be conservative



Troy Rose's daughter Shauna Runkle orders your next refrigerator.

if I said we do at least 20 loads of laundry in one week. That is a great deal of use for a machine. Family size, size of load and types of clothing being washed are just three of the factors that can determine how long an appliance will last. Now I may have to reconsider if the Denney household is the average family.

What about long lasting appliances? In today's throwaway society there are some items that are cheaper to buy new than to have repaired. DVD players, radio and other small appliances are such items. For those items that require repair, JaMar has a certified staff that can make those repairs. "If we sell 'em we fix 'em" said Jim Runkle, service technician, at JaMar.

One advantage of shopping locally is the availability of repair service. I would much rather make a phone call to my local dealer than go through the push button nightmare that is out there for repair service. I know the person repairing my appliance is from Portland and not Indianapolis or Timbuktu.

Another advantage is convenience. When my dishwasher quit working (another appliance that is overworked at the Denney house) I was on the phone immediately saying "Get me a new dishwasher now, please." The next day my new dishwasher was installed. Like electricity there are certain things I just don't want to live without. An electric garage door opener is another of those items. Garage door openers will not be found at JaMar although Mike Rockwell another Jay County REMC member, can hook you up with a new garage door and opener.

The reasons to March into JaMar:



Jay County REMC member Troy Rose is owner of JaMar TV, Appliance and Bedding.

- Name brand appliances
- They repair the products they sell
- Variety of products available
- Convenient location
- Convenient hours
- Great interest rates available
- Friendly customer service
- Family-owned business that is committed to the customer and the community.

Troy, Shauna, Jim, Karen, Terry and Kevin are ready to answer all those appliance questions. March on into JaMar anytime Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Curious and don't want to march in yet? Call JaMar at (800) 569-3944 or (260) 726-7809 to find out what sales are currently running. How do you think Mr. Denney got his big screen TV? Now he wants Direct TV. I think he needs to march into JaMar to make sure he gets all the golf channels.

Cindy Denney is director of marketing and customer service at Jay County REMC.

March into JaMar

As a valued member of Jay County REMC,
take this coupon to JaMar
during the month of March
and receive a free gift.