



# 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

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# Jay County REMC 2004 ANNUAL MEETING

Mark your calendars

## APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

## Saturday, April 17

6 p.m. EXPO and registration • 7 p.m. meeting begins

## Jay County High School

Hwy. 67, Portland – South of the REMC

- \$10 bill credit
- Cutlery set attendance gift
- CASH door prizes
- Director election: Districts 2, 6 and 9
  - Business meeting
  - Kids program
  - Member EXPO
  - Entertainment

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# Home electrical safety

Checks you can make in your home today to help make it more electrically safe.

**Outlets:** Check for outlets that have loose-fitting plugs, which can overheat and lead to fire. Replace any missing or broken wall plates. Make sure there are safety covers on all unused outlets that are accessible to children.

**Cords:** Make sure cords are in good condition – not frayed or cracked. Make sure they are placed out of traffic areas. Cords should never be nailed or stapled to the wall, baseboard or to another object. Do not place cords under carpets or rugs or rest any furniture on them.

**Extension cords:** Check to see that cords are not overloaded. Additionally, extension cords should only be used on a temporary basis; they are not intended as permanent household wiring. Make sure extension cords have safety closures to help prevent young children from shock hazards and mouth burn injuries.

**Water and electricity don't mix:** Don't leave plugged in appliances where they might fall in contact with water. If a plugged-in appliance falls into water, NEVER reach in to pull it out – even if it's turned off. First turn off the power source at the panel board and then unplug the appliance. If you have an appliance that has gotten wet, don't use it until it has been checked by a qualified repair person.

**Space heaters:** Space heaters are meant to supply supplemental heat. Keep space heaters at least three feet away from any combustible materials such as bedding, clothing, draperies, furniture and rugs. Don't use in rooms where children are unsupervised and remember to turn off and unplug when not in use.

For more safety information go to [nesf.org](http://nesf.org).



Jay County  
REMC  
is now accepting  
Visa and  
MasterCard  
for bill payments

# Candidate profiles

Four Jay County REMC members submitted a valid signed petition to run for a seat on the board of directors. At the 2004 annual meeting these candidates will be voted on for directors of your electric cooperative

## District 2

**Richard Nixon** was first elected to the board in 1965. He currently serves the board as Jay County REMC's representative to the Indiana Statewide Association of RECs' board of directors. He has also served



Richard Nixon

on the board as treasurer. Nixon and his wife, Norma Jean (Somers), have four children: Sara Sanders, Ed Nixon, Dixie Franklin and Bettie Green and several grandchildren.

In 2002 he received an Honorary Chapter FFA degree from Jay County FFA chapter 198. He is also a member of National Rifle Association and Farmers Union. Nixon is a member of the Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church. He is also a member of the Farmers Union and the NFO.

## District 6

**Ronald Smithson** was elected to the board in 1998. He is a lifetime resident of Randolph County. Smithson and his wife, Darlene, have three children; Jennifer, Levi and Blake.



Ronald Smithson

A parcel of the Smithsons' farm in Randolph County has been in the Smithson family since 1883, and received the Hoosier Homestead award. He has been a full time farmer for 23 years. Smithson also operates a cow and calf operation.

Smithson and his family are members of the Presbyterian Church of Winchester. He also served on the board of directors of the Randolph County Hospital and a past board member of the Randolph County Soil and Conservation.

## District 9

**Diane Antrim** was first elected to the board in 1998 and she currently serves the board as secretary. Antrim is a lifetime resident of Adams County. She is married to Steve Antrim. Antrim's family includes a daughter, Rhonda Young, and one granddaughter, Natalie.



Diane Antrim

Antrim is the manager of the Et Cetera Ecke store in Berne. She is also employed by the National Agriculture Statistic Services, a division of the Department of Agriculture.

Antrim and her husband are active members of the First Mennonite Church of Berne.

## District 9

**Gene Hindenlang** is a lifelong resident of Adams County. He is a graduate of Indiana University. He and his wife, Judith, have four children: Steven, Mark, Tim and Rick. He and Rick farm 175 acres in Northern Adams County, including the farm he has lived at for 40 years. He has been a Jay County REMC member for the same length of time.



Gene Hindenlang

He is retired from Adams Central High School where he taught science, social studies, and psychology. He retired from Silberline in Decatur after 15 years as a quality control technician.

# 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 the First World War, the Red Cross introduced its first aid, water safety, and public health nursing programs. At the military's request during the Second World War, 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.

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The Red Cross also expanded its services into such fields as civil defense, CPR/AED training, HIV/AIDS 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. It extends a helping hand to offer relief to victims of disaster; keeps military families connected

through their emergency communications network; empowers people to save lives through CPR, first aid, AED, water safety and babysitting training; and collects blood that is needed 365 days a year.

The Hoosier Heartland Chapter is led 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 call (260) 726-9530, 1-800-480-4403 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.

March is Red Cross Month and you can help even more by switching your long distance service to Jay County REMC and TransWorld Network. For information on how to switch your long distance check out the ad in this issue of *Electric Consumer*.



**American Red Cross = Saving Lives**



**Jay County REMC**  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  
*The power of human connections*



**Saving**

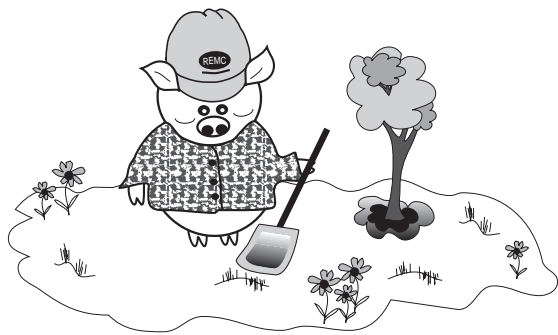


**TWN TransWorldNetwork**



**Switch Long Distance To TWN During Red Cross Month & Support  
Your Local Hoosier Heartland Chapter.**

**1-888-610-4529**



## Can you dig it?

Diggy Piggy says, "It's that time of the year when people begin poking all kinds of holes in the ground. New trees, shrubs, fence posts, mailboxes; you name it. All require digging a hole from a foot to several feet deep.

"The problem is that you don't really know what you are going to dig into. It may only be a few earthworms or the ring you lost last year. Or it could be a buried utility line, like 240 volts or 7,200 volts (if it's primary) of electricity. Now, wouldn't that put a kink in your tail? Or you may chop right into the lines just as the children settle down to watch 'Charlotte's Web.' All of which could be downright dangerous.

"So, call the Jay County REMC at 1 (800) 835-7362 before you start digging. Folks from the REMC help keep you safe and avoid the shocks by coming out and locating the underground lines. Then you can dig it."

## Comparing electric bills doesn't pay

Have you ever wondered why your electric bill is higher than your neighbor's bill?

There are many things to consider when comparing bills.

The most important are the family's energy habits, the size and efficiency of the home, and the differences in heating or cooling systems. You should also consider your family's lifestyle and energy use habits.

Is your family number the same as your neighbors? Do you use lighting, heating, and refrigeration the same as your neighbors? Chances are, you don't use exactly the same amount of energy as your neighbors. You know how hard teenagers can be on refrigerators and microwaves. And, what about laundry habits? Do you do many small loads of laundry while your neighbors do a few large loads weekly? One last thing: How long do you shower compared to your neighbors?

Hopefully, you can see the point we are making by asking these questions.

Just a little common sense tells us that it just doesn't make sense to compare electric bills.

## CO-OP NOTES

### Important dates

Electric bills due March 5.

Read meter March 20.

### \$50 cash drawing winner

The \$50 cash drawing winner for the month of January was Robert Teeple of Bryant. Congratulations from Jay County REMC.

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

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

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

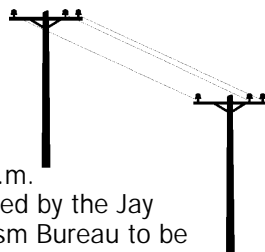
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

\$50

## SIDE LINES



### Courtesy of Jay County Tourism Bureau

March 13, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

— Giant Spin-In sponsored by the Jay County Visitor and Tourism Bureau to be held at the Jay County Fairgrounds. Open to the public, no admission fee, food available, vendors and demonstrations. Welcome to an event for fiber crafters of all descriptions, fiber lovers, and those curious about fiber. See the process from raw fiber to finished object. Learn about different fibers, from alpaca to yak! Flax, linen, wool, mohair, angora and more. Shop for fiber, equipment, books, finished items, soap and more. For information contact Julie Davidson at 260-244-1905 or at [jbedupen@maplenet.net](mailto:jbedupen@maplenet.net).

### Courtesy of Winchester Chamber of Commerce

March 4-8, 50th Annual Art Show. We will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary with a special reception for our artists. Later in the month we will celebrate our history with a luncheon that will honor the founders of the Art Association. Details to be announced. Info: Karen Turner at 765-964-7227.

March 17, Randolph County Ag Day. Location: Husted Hall, Randolph County Fairground. Info: Extension Office-765-584-2271

April 24, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Home and Garden Show at the Randolph County Fairgrounds. For information call the Winchester Chamber at 765-584-3731.

### New look

Same address, new look for the Jay County REMC Web site. The new Web site has more features and is easier to browse. Visit on line at [www.jayremc.com](http://www.jayremc.com) to check out the new look. The Web site has information about

electrical safety, the REMC, the employees, services, and you can even send your metering reading to the office.

### XTC winner

Congratulations to Melvin Klopfleish of Decatur. Klopfleish won the free field fee given away by Xtreme Chaos, owned by Jay County REMC member Glynn Barber and his son Cameron.

### Happy St. Patrick's Day

Before lifting that pot of gold consider these leprechaun lifting tips: Squat rather than bend over, get help, and push rather than pull. Taking these tips into consideration may prevent back injuries. Don't rely on luck to prevent injuries, think safety first it's the attitude to have.

Irish you and your family a Happy and Safe St. Paddy's Day.

### Happy Birthday to Phil Strait — March 17. Win 5 Tickets

Monumental Family Circus to be held at Belmont High School on March 18, at 7 p.m.

### Sign up to win 5 Free Circus Tickets

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail entry to: Jay County REMC  
P.O. Box 904, Portland, IN 47371.  
Drawing will be held on March 10 at 4:30 p.m.