



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

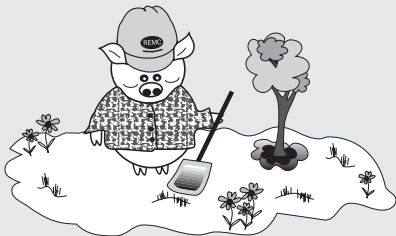
Call (260) 726-7121 or
(800) TEL-REMC (835-7362)

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**



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.

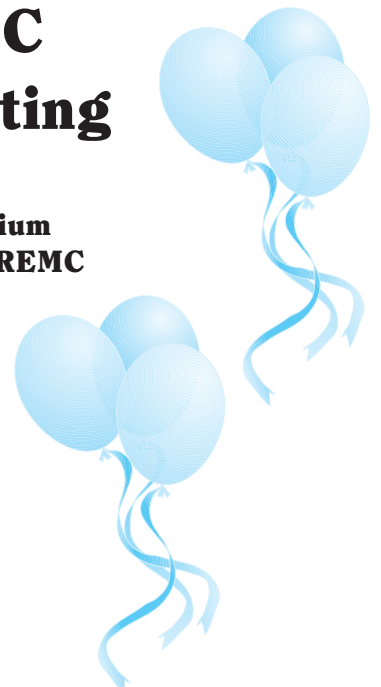
"The problem is that you don't really know what you are going to dig into. It may only be a few earthworms or the ring you lost last year. Or it could be a buried utility line, like 240 volts or 7,200 volts (if it's primary) of electricity. Now, wouldn't that put a kink in your tail? Or you may chop 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 (800) 835-7362 or Holey Moley at (800) 382-5544 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."

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: Pizza cutter and \$10 bill credit

Door prizes

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, public relations and operations.

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

Salamonia 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

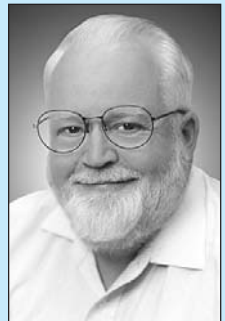
Steven Affolder has lived in Adams County for 33 years. Prior to moving to Adams County he lived in Wells County.

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

SPOTLIGHT ON BUSINESS

Ready, set, mow with John's Small Engine

by Cindy Denney

It is that time of year again when the grass is turning green and growing and needing to be mowed. The big question is: Are you ready to mow? Is your mower set to mow? Last mowing season Mr. Denney decided to replace our old trim mower when next spring came around. Well, next spring is here and a new mower is on the horizon. That horizon happens to be located at 9931 W 400 S, Redkey. John's Small Engine, owned by Jay County REMC member John Reitz is ready to serve your mowing needs.

John Reitz, a former union carpenter, enjoyed working on small engines during down time.

When the garage became too small or too dirty depending on which member of the Reitz family you ask (John or Delores), a building next to the house was built in 1991 to accommodate the growing demand for small engine repair.

This demand prompted another expansion. John began to sell Snapper products. Two years later Simplicity and Stihl products were added to the showcase. The products available from John's Small Engine include lawn mowers/tractors, trimmers, roto tillers, snow blowers and chainsaws. "We sold more chainsaws in the month of January than we normally do in an



Above: John's Small Engine, your one stop small engine shop. Left: John Small Engine's friendly staff: Bill Bell, Delores Reitz and John Reitz.

entire year and we saw an increase in the number of saws sharpened because of the ice storm," said John.

Let's leave the snow and ice behind and look towards the new, like a new lawn tractor for this mowing season. There are many things to take into consideration when purchasing a new lawn tractor. The first thing is the size and layout of your yard. If you have a commercial property you will want a bigger mower and John's Small Engine has commercial mowers. Will you be removing snow, gardening or landscaping? What quality of cut do you expect?

The last thing to consider is service. Buying any product from a store that does not provide service for the products it sells can cause a headache. Experience has taught me that repair service is a major consideration when purchas-

ing any item. And experienced service is what you will get at John's Small Engine.

"The bitterness of poor quality remains long after the sweetness of low price is forgotten." In other words you get what you pay for according to Simplicity's motto. If your budget allows, it makes good cents to pay a little extra for a better product. John also offers six months and 12 months same as cash with APR credit through Simplicity. John's Small Engine offers a superior product, a product that he and Bill Bell services. If you are looking for a good product that can be serviced locally get ready to call John's Small Engine at (765) 768-1257 and he will get you set to mow.

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

John's 20 point tune-up tips

1. Change engine oil and filter as applicable
2. Lubricate chassis, wheel spindles, pivoting axle, deck or auger
3. Sharpen and balance mower blades or replace
4. Check mower level; adjust if necessary
5. Inspect, clean, regap or replace spark plug(s)
6. Clean engine and transmission cooling fins and air intake
7. Inspect powertrain; add lubricant if required
8. Inspect belts and pulleys; replace if necessary
9. Check tire pressure; adjust if necessary
10. Clean battery terminals
11. Inspect and lubricate steering
12. Inspect and adjust carburetor if necessary
13. Test engine RPMs; adjust if necessary
14. Clean air filter or replace
15. Check starting, charging and ignition systems
16. Inspect shift/clutch mechanisms and lubricate
17. Inspect throttle control cable, check operation
18. Check safety switches
19. Check and adjust PTO clutch air gap
20. Test overall performance

Study aimed at reducing power interruptions

During the past 20 years, Jay County REMC has had stable load growth due to new customers and expansion of area businesses. Despite these incremental system additions, over time demand has increased. Add to that a series of unfortunate weather problems (ice storms, lightning, etc.) that impact our broad service territory and the result is an increase in unscheduled power interruptions.

To address these concerns, your cooperative has enlisted Spectrum Engineering to perform a total electric system study. Spectrum's engineers and technicians have over 25 years of experience analyzing and solving system-related issues. They appreciate our reliance on reliable, quality power and are knowledgeable on what improvements make sense for each given situation.

The first step to improve system reliability is identifying the root causes of momentary and longer-term electric supply problems. Spectrum will be driving our entire system to identify key characteristics, such as wire size, protective devices and voltage controls. At that same time, it

will gather key customer load data and assess the overall system integrity. Next, it will couple this information with forecasted system load growth. Finally, the evaluation and analysis will be summarized into a series of timely, cost-effective solutions, providing us with a "road map" for system improvements.

Regardless of how hard we try, the proposed system changes will not prevent weather problems. That is practically impossible. However, the system changes will go a long way toward reducing nuisance trips and minimizing the number of customers out during severe weather. A prime objective will also be to determine how we can get customers back in service quicker, through load transfers and special device placement.

Following the completion of the study, our crews will begin implementing changes on a prioritized basis. With this timely review and subsequent system upgrades, we expect future weather-caused issues will be far less problematic.



Rates as low as
4.9¢*
Long Distance

It's a big hit.

Welcome to long distance savings from Jay County REMC. With Jay County's long distance, there are no time of day restrictions and no fees—call who you want, when you want, without any worries, without any hidden costs. You get peace of mind knowing you're saving on all your calls, across the continental USA, and around the world. You'll receive:

- ▶ ONLY 5.9¢* PER MINUTE for in-state & state-to-state calling!
- ▶ Personal Toll-Free number with a rate of 6.5¢* PER MINUTE!
- ▶ Calling Card rate of 9.5¢ PER MINUTE!
- ▶ Great low international rates around the world!
- ▶ No monthly service charges or minimum and no cost to join!
- ▶ Ask about our discounted rate of 4.9¢* per minute for Ebill!
- ▶ You don't have to be a Jay County REMC customer to join!



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

Switch your long distance in April and Jay County REMC will donate \$5 to Randolph County YMCA.

Savings so big, they're outta the ball park!

*Taxes and other regulatory charges not included. Certain restrictions may apply. Please call for details. Services provided by TransWorld Network.

Call today to sign up! 1-888-610-4529

Celebrate Arbor Day April 29

The idea for Arbor Day originally came from Nebraska. A visit to Nebraska today wouldn't disclose that the state was once a treeless plain. Yet it was the lack of trees there that led to the founding of Arbor Day in the 1800s.

Among pioneers moving into the Nebraska Territory in 1854 was J. Sterling Morton from Detroit. He and his wife were lovers of nature, and the home they established in Nebraska was quickly planted with trees, shrubs and flowers. Morton was a journalist and soon became editor of Nebraska's first newspaper. Given that forum, he spread agricultural information and his enthusiasm for trees to an equally enthusiastic audience. His fellow pioneers missed their trees. But, more importantly, trees were needed as windbreaks to keep soil in place, for fuel and building materials, and for shade from the hot sun.

On Jan. 4, 1872, Morton first proposed a tree-planting holiday to be called "Arbor Day" at a meeting of the State Board of Agriculture. The date was set for April 10, 1872. It was estimated that more than one million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day.

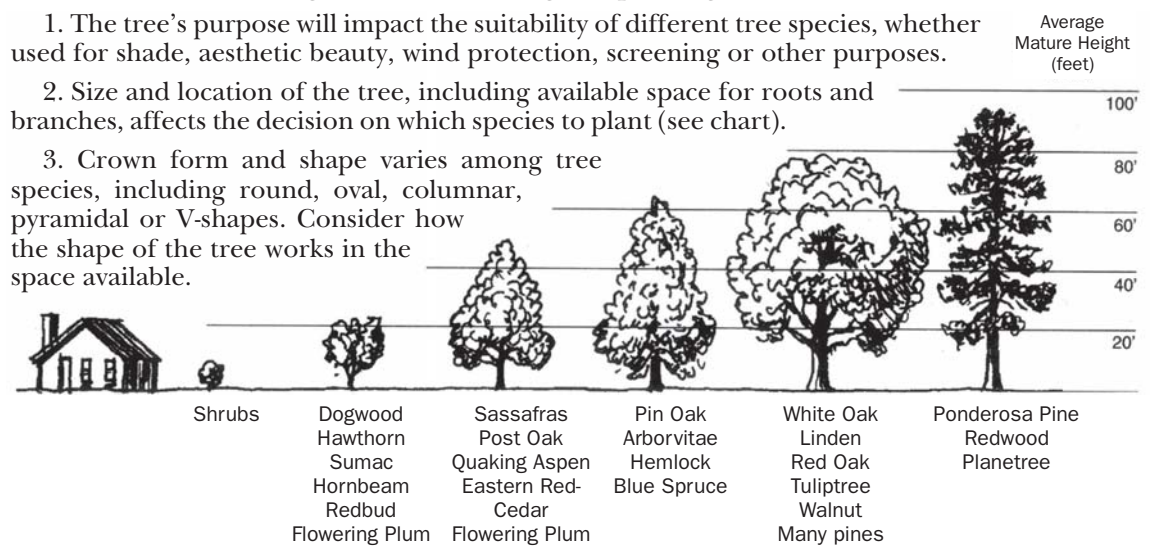
In 1885, Arbor Day was named a legal holiday in Nebraska and April 22, Morton's birthday,

Consider the following factors in selecting and planting trees:

1. The tree's purpose will impact the suitability of different tree species, whether used for shade, aesthetic beauty, wind protection, screening or other purposes.

2. Size and location of the tree, including available space for roots and branches, affects the decision on which species to plant (see chart).

3. Crown form and shape varies among tree species, including round, oval, columnar, pyramidal or V-shapes. Consider how the shape of the tree works in the space available.



— From *Tree City USA Bulletin No. 4 "The Right Tree for the Right Place."* For a free copy of the complete bulletin, write to: *The National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410.*

was selected as the date for its permanent observance. Today the most common date for the state observances is the last Friday in April, and several U.S. presidents have proclaimed a na-

tional Arbor Day on that date. Jay County REMC will once again be visiting area schools to discuss the value of trees and the importance of planting those trees away from power lines.

SIDE LINES

Courtesy of Portland Chamber of Commerce

April 30: Jay County Hospital Family Health Fair at the Jay County High School 7, a.m.-11 a.m.

Courtesy of Winchester Chamber of Commerce

April 2: Union City Lions Club Sausage and Pancake Day at Elks Club, 6 a.m.-1 p.m. Info: (765) 964-3185.

April 9: Saratoga Lions Club 45th Annual Consignment Auction. Location: Lions Club Building. 10 a.m. Info: Don Bryuant, (765) 584-9622.

April 10: Spring Fling Art sponsored by Art Association of Randolph County. Location: Railroad Depot in Union City, 2-4 p.m., charge \$1 per child. Info: Jan, (765) 964-7227.

April 22: Winchester Area Chamber of Commerce, 15th Annual Home and Garden Show, sponsored by Grimm Pontiac, Buick, GMC. Location: Randolph County Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Info: Vicki, (765) 584-3731.

Visit the REMC booth at the home and garden show. Sign up for our long distance and the REMC will donate \$5 to the Randolph County YMCA.

April 30: Winchester City Wide Garage Sale, flea market, crafts at the 4-H grounds sponsored by the Winchester Kiwanis, 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Info: Rod, (765) 584-6276.

Confusing

Tree trimming is a vital aspect of line maintenance for all utility companies. The reasons for trimming trees in the power lines are not confus-

ing. Trimming trees can save lives. Children love to climb trees and when moving branches come in contact with power lines injury can occur. Trimming trees prevents power outages by keeping limbs from falling into the power lines during high winds or ice.

What is confusing is who is the Jay County REMC tree-trimming contractor. Jay County REMC has contracted with Trees Are Us, Inc., not to be confused with Trees R Us, to trim trees in the Jay County REMC service territory.

Jay County REMC wants to keep the lights on and our members and their families safe. Trees

Are Us, Inc., owned and operated by George Goldsworthy, was hired three years ago for that reason. If you have a tree that is near or in a power line that needs cut down or trimmed contact the Jay County REMC at (800) 835-7362. Don't try trimming trees yourself. Leave that to the professionals.

Wood chips are available from the Jay County REMC and Trees Are Us, Inc., if you would like to be placed on the list to receive wood chips, please call the Jay County REMC. Keep in mind these are wood chips and are not to be confused with mulch.

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 Paul Crawford of Redkey for winning the \$50 drawing in **Electric Consumer** for bills paid between Feb. 20 and Feb. 28. 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 April 20 and paid by April 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.