



**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**

**Tax credits: save money
and lower taxes**

Did you replace windows, add insulation or install a new heat pump in 2006? If so, you may be eligible to receive a tax credit. The new tax incentives passed in the federal Energy Policy Act of 2005 promote wise energy use, help lower energy bills, and help reduce tax bills.

The new energy law provides valuable federal tax credits for consumers who made certain, specified energy-efficiency upgrades to their homes or purchased an fuel-efficient hybrid-electric vehicle. The credits took effect in January 2006 and most will be available only in 2006 and 2007, unless Congress extends the credit.

Energy savings are highly dependent on location, type of equipment and amount of use. For more information, visit the Department of Energy's Web site at www.eere.energy.gov or the Alliance to Save Energy's Web site at www.ase.org.



co-opNews

Policy changes effective March 1

A continued desire to provide the membership with the best possible electric value and service has prompted the REMC to evaluate certain fees and charges. The following fees and charges have been approved for security lights and member fault. As of March 1, the new service fees will go into effect.

Security Light Fees

	<u>Current Fee</u>	<u>Fee as of March 1</u>
175 – watt security light		
Existing utility pole	\$6.48/month	\$7.50/month
New utility pole and wire (no transformer)	\$6.48/month	\$10.50/month
New utility pole, wire and transformer	\$6.48/month	\$22.50/month
400 – watt security light		
Existing utility pole	\$11.50/ month	\$13/month
New utility pole and wire (no transformer)	\$11.50/month	\$15/month
New utility pole, wire and transformer	\$11.50/month	\$30/month

Member Fault Charge

In the event REMC is required to respond to a member-reported outage and the cause of the outage is found to be the members' responsibility the member will be invoiced for the applicable charges.

<u>Hours</u>	<u>Fee as of March 1</u>
<i>During normal business hours</i> (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)	\$75
<i>After normal business hours</i>	\$150
<i>Sunday or holiday hours</i>	\$200

Board election petitions available

The 2007 annual meeting is scheduled for April 14 at Jay County High School. Directors' seats up for re-election are District 2 and District 9.

District 2 is represented by Diane Antrim. District 2 is all the area that the REMC serves in Adams County east of U.S. 27. This area is bounded on the west by U.S. 27, on the east by the Indiana-Ohio state line, on the north by Adams County Road 450 N. and on the south by the Jay-Adams County line.

District 9 is represented by Ronald Smithson. District 6 encompasses the entire Randolph County area.

Interested parties must pick up a petition at the Jay County REMC after Dec. 1 and return the petition by Jan. 10. Any qualified member of 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 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.

SPOTLIGHT ON BUSINESS

Ringger in the New Year

by Cindy Denney

The New Year brings about many changes, or at least the desire to change many things. As you can guess, the Denney family list of things to change rivals the dictionary in size. This year, I am not going to worry about losing those extra pounds or giving up chocolate.

We will ring in the New Year by placing more importance on planning for the future. The future is uncertain and not being prepared for the unexpected can cause additional burdens on loved ones.

Protection, security and peace of mind is possible by discussing the future with Jay County REMC members George and Evelyn Ringger. George and Evelyn are independent associates for Pre-Paid Legal Services, Inc. and have been residents of rural Adams County for over 50 years.

"Pre-Paid Legal Service is a New York Stock Exchange company that has been providing legal service plans to North American families for over 33 years. Our customers can access legal counsel and advice from qualified lawyers by simply calling a toll free number," said Evelyn.

Pre-Paid Legal Services, founded by Harland Stonecipher, offers a variety of legal plans to suit your needs. The most common services available:

Preventive Legal Services

- Telephone consultations for personal or business questions
- Letter/phone call plus two business letters or calls per year
- Legal document review (up to 10 pages) plus one business document per year
- Will preparations and updates

Motor Vehicle Legal Services

- Assistance with moving traffic violations
- Assistance with certain motor vehicle related criminal charges
- Driver's license assistance
- Personal injury/property damage collection assistance of \$2,000 or less



Evelyn Ringger speaks to the Geneva Chamber of Commerce on identity theft.



The friendly staff of Pre-Paid Legal Services, George Ringger, Evelyn Ringger and Dorcas Merkle.

Trial Defense Services

- Your provider law firm will assist in the defense of civil suits and job-related criminal charges. Up to 60 hours of assistance is available the first membership year.

IRS Audit Legal Services

- Scheduled benefits up to 50 hours of professional services from your provider law firm, including 3.5 pre-trial time

Identity theft is the fastest growing American crime.

"In the past five years over 27,000,000 people have become victims of identity theft. Those who have not experienced it firsthand may not think about identity theft except when it pops back up in the news again," said George.

Unfortunately, this complacency can lead to an underestimation of the risk. How often do you hand a credit card to a waitress or sales clerk; give out personal information over the internet; put mail in your home mailbox; or shred unwanted mail containing personal information? When personal information is available to anyone, a door is opened for a thief to steal your identity.

Here are a few tips on how to protect yourself from becoming a victim.

- Don't carry your Social Security card. Leave it in a safe place.
- Order copies of your credit report. You are entitled to a free report every 12 months.
- Shred documents that have personal data, such as bank account statements and credit card applications.
- Place your outgoing mail in postal collection boxes instead of your home mailbox.

Would you know what to do if identity theft happened to you? What's your plan? We plan for all types of emergencies, fires and tornadoes, yet identity theft can be just as devastating as a fire. We don't plan for someone to steal our identities. If you are interested in finding out more on how to protect yourself from identity

theft or the other service available from Pre-Paid Legal, give George or Evelyn Ringger a ring at (260) 565-3240. Ringger in the New Year knowing you and your family are protected.

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

Local high schooler supports good cause

Alissa Riddle, who has family and friends that have used the services of Ronald McDonald House, spearheaded Jay County High School's drive for non-perishable items. She saw a commercial on television that Jay County REMC was one of the drop off sites and wanted to help. The high school students, faculty and key club donated hundreds of dollars worth of needed items. Thank you Alissa and Jay County High School for your caring spirit. Go Patriots! A special thank you to our members and employees who dropped off items at the REMC office.



Alissa Riddle poses with donated items.



Alissa talks with Kathy Greene of Insight Communications regarding the donation.



Donated items are loaded into a van.

Second annual concert to raise funds for energy assistance

For the second year, Jay County REMC is a proud sponsor of the Energy Assistance Benefit Concert. The concert will benefit HEARTLITE and other supplemental assistance programs. HEARTLITE is a cooperative effort between Jay County REMC and Community and Family Services. It is designed to assist low-income Jay County REMC members with their electric bills. HEARTLITE supplements local resources with funds to assist Jay County REMC members year round.

Ken Bantz has once again graciously agreed to headline the concert. Ken's Americana music mix reminds one of a cross between Neil Young/Carlos Santana/Miles Davis, three musicians who influenced his early years. His music comes from the heart and his desire to address the issues of humanity is reflected in his songs. This year, joining Ken on stage will be several of his friends who share the same passion for music and a compelling need to help others: Tom Frye, a local singer songwriter; Faere Wynds directed by Pete Vogler; and members of the Jay County High School Choir.

"Last year's show was a special time. The combination of the people who attended, the volunteers, sponsors, wonderful performance venue and music, all coming together to help those that were less fortunate, created a special aura of energy that is hard to describe," Bantz said. "With the line-up and quality of performers we have for this year's show, it's going to be even better. And it has to be because we need to raise more to help."

Larry Braden at Community Family Services reported last year in Jay County energy assistance was provided to over 850 households, an increase of 16 percent over the previous year. He expects at least that number, if not more this year.

"I would love to double the amount of funds we raised last year to help fill this need," said Bantz.

Bantz is a certified public accountant and teaches at Ball State University. Following several years in the business world, he decided to return to his first passion...music. In 1990, he began writing songs about life. His CD "You Can't Go Back" reflects events in his life. "Till That Whistle Blows" deals with job loss and



Ken Bantz performs at last year's benefit concert for energy assistance.

downsizing and was written for his younger brother, Dan. The emotions he felt when his grandmother died several years ago can be felt in the song "End of an Era."

Please join us on Jan. 26 at 7:30 p.m. for the Ken Bantz concert to benefit the Supplemental Energy Assistance Programs at Arts Place in Portland. The tickets are \$10 or \$25 for patron tickets. Tickets may be purchased through the box office at Arts Place. For more information, call Arts Place at (260) 726-4809.

100 percent of the money raised from the concert will be donated to Community and Family Services to support the supplemental energy assistance programs in Adams, Blackford, Jay, Randolph, and Wells counties. It is more important than ever to bring a light of hope into the lives of people who may have to make difficult decisions.

A silent auction is scheduled before the concert and during the intermission to raise money for local food banks. An MP3 player, a wireless multi-zone digital thermometer and CD players are among the auction items. Please join us on Jan 26 to enjoy marvelous music, remarkable refreshments, and support a worthy cause.

CO-OP NOTES

\$50 cash drawing winner

The \$50 drawing winner for the month of November was Jana Shaffer of Geneva. Read *Electric Consumer* for your chance to win \$50.

Cooper Farms drawing

Rita Andrews of Dunkirk was the winner of the Cooper Farms turkey given away in the November *Electric Consumer*.

Employees receive service awards

Jay County REMC recently honored two employees for their years of service. REMC employees recognized for service to Jay County REMC were: Ron Laux, lineman, 25 year service award, and Mark Arnold, business manager, 30 year service award. The REMC is very proud of the fine individuals being honored and all the employees that provide quality customer service to our cooperative members and community.



Tom Zimmerman, board president, presents lineman Ron Laux with a 25 year service award.



Board president Tom Zimmerman presents a 30 year service award to Business Manager Mark Arnold.

Sign up to win four tickets to the Ken Bantz Benefit Concert

Name _____

Address _____

Account # _____

Phone # _____

Mail entry to: Jay County REMC, P.O. Box 904, Portland, IN 47371.
Drawing will be held on Jan. 17, at 4:30 p.m.



Happy New Year
from the employees
and board of directors

Preparing for a storm

As winter sets in, there is the chance for power outages caused by stormy weather. If outages occur, Jay County REMC employees will work diligently to restore service as quickly as possible.

In preparation for possible outages:

Become familiar with your service panel location and how to operate the main circuit breaker.

Prepare a basic emergency kit and store it in an accessible place. Among the items the kit should contain are:

- flashlight
- first aid supplies
- bottled water
- extra batteries
- wind-up clock
- manual can opener
- battery-operated radio or television

Protect your household appliances and sensitive electronics from damaging power surges caused by wind and lightning storms.

If you have an Uninterruptible Power Source, a device with an internal battery that provides continuous power to computers plugged into it, remember the device provides backup power for only a short time, usually a few minutes. However, this is often enough time to ride out power glitches or short outages.

If the power goes out

Check to see if the lights are out in neighboring homes. If they are, chances are that you are part of a larger power outage.

If your block is without power, call Jay County REMC toll-free at (800) 835-7362.

While waiting for electricity to be restored, turn off all electric appliances and switches *except* the porch light or other light that Jay County REMC crews can see from the road when power is back on. Having just one light on lowers the initial demand for electricity and makes it easier for Jay County REMC crews to restore electric service.

Listen to news reports to know when the outage has been restored.

Stay away from downed power lines

If power lines are down, immediately call 911 or Jay County REMC's toll-free number: (800) 835-7362.

Always assume the power line is "energized" and stay away while warning others of danger.

If the downed power lines have fallen on a motor vehicle, avoid contact with the vehicle — it has probably been electrified and a deadly shock could result if you touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time. Stay clear until the utility company arrives.

You Hold The Power



You hold the power to switch to Jay County REMC's Long Distance Program.

Enjoy these great benefits:

- As low as 4.9¢* per minute with a 1 year term & Ebill paperless!
- Standard rate of 5.9¢* per minute!
- Calling card rates are only 9.5¢ a minute!
- Great low International rates!
- Competitive business rates available. Call for details!
- You do not need to be a Jay County REMC member to sign up!

Call Now **1-888-610-4529**



*Taxes and other regulatory charges not included. Certain restrictions and early termination fees may apply. Rates stated are for Indiana. Please call for details. In partnership with TransWorld Network.

**\$50 monthly drawing for bills dated
Jan. 20 and paid by Jan. 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.