



**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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Scary sparks can be serious threat

by Cindy Denney

On occasion my children will shuffle across the carpet in their stocking feet, just hoping they can give someone a scare with the sparks from static electricity. Most people think static electricity is not a serious threat. I thought the same thing, until I read a recent article in *Successful Farming*. The article told of a tragedy involving static electricity and a gas can.

When I think of October I think of harvest time. I also think Farm Safety Month. It is no wonder that Farm Safety Month is during one of the busiest farming seasons. The Petroleum Equipment Institute offers 10 simple steps to avoid gasoline fires caused by static electricity. These tips should be followed all year long and not just at harvest time.

1. Turn off your engine while refueling. A running car (or tractor) presents a number of ignition sources for fuel vapor. Also, if a fire does occur and burns through a fuel hose, a running engine means the fuel pump will spray gasoline into the open flame.

2. Don't smoke or light matches or lighters anywhere near gasoline. This one should be obvious.

3. While refueling, do not reenter your vehicle. Sliding across the seat can cause static electricity to build up, and it can discharge at the fill point, causing a fire.

4. If you must reenter your vehicle while refueling, discharge any static before going near the fill point. Place your bare hand flat on your vehicle, away from the fill point and fuel tank. (It is a good idea to do this even if you don't reenter the vehicle, since static can also build in other ways during refueling.)

5. If a fire does occur while refueling do not remove the nozzle from the gas tank. Back away from the car and alert the attendant to operate the emergency shutoff.

6. When dispensing gasoline into a container, use only an approved portable container and place it on the ground when filling to avoid a possible static electricity ignition of fuel vapors. Containers should never be filled while inside a vehicle or its trunk, the bed of a pickup truck or the floor of a trailer.

7. When transporting gasoline in a portable container, make sure it is secured to prevent tipping and sliding and never leave it in direct sunlight or in the trunk of a car.

8. Fill portable containers no more than 95 percent full to allow for expansion. Likewise, don't overfill or top off the tank when fueling your vehicle, which can cause spillage.

9. Place the cap tightly on the container after filling, and don't use containers without a good seal. If gasoline spills on the container, make sure that it has evaporated before placing it in your vehicle.

10. Be equally as careful when using diesel and other fuels. Although the PEI hasn't documented any cases of compressed natural gas igniting due to static electricity, it says, "The higher flash point of diesel makes such an occurrence unlikely but not impossible."

For more safety tips and information on static electricity and gasoline, visit the Petroleum Equipment Web site at www.pei.org/static. Following this safety tips will take the scare out of the static electricity spark.

Cindy Denney is director of marketing and customer services for Jay County REMC.

Fire extinguisher know how

Every house should have strategically placed fire extinguishers, especially in the kitchen, garage and workshops. Consider where the best place for your extinguisher is in the case of a fire — is it easy to get if there is a fire at the stove, for example?

Read the instruction manual and know your fire extinguisher's limits before using it on a fire. Using the wrong type of fire extinguisher on a fire can make it spread so plan ahead when buying and placing fire extinguishers.

There are four types of fire household extinguishers:

- Type A: For use on fires using combustible materials such as wood, cloth and paper.
- Type B: For use on flammable liquid fires, including kitchen grease. Never use water on this type of fire.
- Type C: For use in fires involving energized electrical equipment.
- Type ABC: Works on all three types of fires mentioned above.

Here are some basic tips to keep in mind when you have to use a household fire extinguisher:

- When fire breaks out, call the fire department and get everyone out of the house. Know the fire extinguisher's limits and your own limits before fighting the fire.
- Inspect your extinguishers to find out if they need to be recharged or replaced. After use, extinguishers need to be recharged or replaced even if you haven't used all of the extinguishing substance.
- Always keep your back to an unobstructed exit that is free from fire when using a portable fire extinguisher.
- Check the manufacturer's instructions for operating guidelines, especially proper distance between the extinguisher and the fire. Always aim at the base of the fire. — *Underwriters Laboratory*

D & J Residential Maintenance to the rescue

by Cindy Denney

There are many things in life that are scary. Moving and starting a new business rank in the top ten, right behind public speaking. Jay County REMC members and TWN customers John and Dee Osburn faced their fears head on when they moved to Jay County and started their own business.

When Dee's parents passed away and John's job with Federal Express re-structured, the couple decided they wanted out of Indianapolis. They were tired of the hectic lifestyle and the high cost of living in Marion County. They found Jay County to be a friendly and affordable community to live.

Working in a factory was not what John wanted to do for the rest of his career, although he did try the factory for awhile. His background in home repair and maintenance led him to the construction field. He felt that he could offer affordable and honest service to the residents in Jay, Randolph and Delaware counties.

John is a licensed general contractor through Indiana's building commissioner. In order to become licensed he had to have five years of experience and a background check. He is also insured and bonded. After getting his license he purchased two drain cleaning machines and



Water damaged this ceiling.

\$300 in stock on his credit card and D & J Residential Maintenance was open for business. He has been in business for over a year. Most of his work comes from word of mouth and that is keeping him busy.

John prides himself on quality service and open communication with his customers. He believes there is nothing more frightening for homeowners than not knowing what is the problem with their homes. He provides FREE estimates on home repair costs. Drain cleaning, spray painting, plumbing, electrical, HVAC, roof repairs, home inspections, backhoe/bushhog, and carpentry are just a few of the services available through D & J Residential Maintenance.

"If it's broken we can fix it," Dee said. "We



D&J Residential came to the rescue.

don't want to get rich, we just want to make a living and be able to pay our bills." One of those bills is for long distance service with the Jay County REMC and TransWorld Network. "I have sawed my long distance bill in half with TransWorld Network. Starting a new business was scary but my long distance bill is no longer scary, I recommend switching to everyone," John said.

If you want help with home repairs call John 24 hours a day seven days a week at 765-768-7930 or 765-212-0050. If you want help on saving money on your long distance call 888-610-4529.

Cindy Denney is director of marketing and customer services for Jay County REMC.



John Osburn of D&J Residential Maintenance says,
Saw your long distance bills in half!

With long distance from Jay County REMC.

Call who you want - when you want - with no fees or time of day restrictions for only 6.5¢* per minute.

With Jay County REMC's long distance program, you'll be able to sleep like a log knowing you're saving money on all of your international, state-to-state and in-state calls. Our program offers a personal, Toll Free number for 6.5¢ per minute, and our Calling Card rates are only 9.5¢ per minute. These rates are not only available to our members, they're available to their friends and family - even if they're not members of Jay County REMC.

One call is all it takes so pick up the phone and start saving on all your calls today ...

...from someone you know.

1-888-610-4529



*Taxes and other regulatory charges not included. Certain restrictions may apply. Call for details. In partnership with TransWorld Network.

Halloween safety tips

The following safety tips will help prevent Halloween from turning into a nightmare.

Trick-or-treaters safety tips

- Carry a flashlight
- Walk, don't run.
- Stay on sidewalks
- Obey traffic signals
- Stay in familiar neighborhoods
- Don't cut across yards or driveways.
- Wear a watch you can read in the dark.
- Make sure costumes don't drag on the ground.
- Shoes should fit (even if they don't go with your costume)
- Avoid wearing masks while walking from house to house.
- Carry only flexible knives, swords or other props.
- (If no sidewalk) walk on the left side of the road facing traffic
- Wear clothing with reflective markings or tape.
- Approach only houses that are lit.
- Stay away from and don't pet animals you don't know.

Parents safety tips for Halloween

- Make your child eat dinner before setting out.
- Children should carry quarters so they can call home.
- Ideally, young children of any age should be accompanied by an adult.
- If your children go on their own, be sure they wear a watch, preferably one that can be read in the dark.
- If you buy a costume, look for one made of flame-retardant material.
- Older children should know where to reach you and

when to be home.

- You should know where they're going.
- Although tampering is rare, tell children to bring the candy home to be inspected before consuming anything.
- Look at the wrapping carefully and toss out anything that looks suspect.

Homeowners safety tips for Halloween

- Make sure your yard is clear of such things as ladders, hoses, dog leashes and flower pots that can trip the young ones.
- Pets get frightened on Halloween. Put them up to protect them from cars or inadvertently biting a trick-or-treater.
- Battery powered jack o'lantern candles are preferable to a real flame.
- If you do use candles, place the pumpkin well away from where trick-or-treaters will be walking or standing.
- Make sure paper or cloth yard decorations won't be blown into a flaming candle.
- Healthy food alternatives for trick-or-treaters include packages of low-fat crackers with cheese or peanut butter filling, single-serve boxes of cereal, packaged fruit rolls, mini boxes of raisins and single-serve packets of low-fat popcorn that can be microwaved later.
- Non-food treats: plastic rings, pencils, stickers, erasers, coins.

Drivers safety tips for Halloween

- Go slow, slow, slow all evening.

Have a BOO-tiful and safe evening.

Harlem Ambassadors tour is coming your way

The internationally acclaimed Harlem Ambassadors 2003-2004 "Around the World" Tour, covering Europe, Asia and North America, will include a stop in Jay County for a game at Jay County High School on Thursday, Oct. 30 at 7 p.m., sponsored by the Jay Community Center.

The Harlem Ambassadors basketball show features high-flying slam dunks, dazzling ball-handling and comedy routines led by Lade Majic, Queen of Show Basketball. The only woman coach/player of all men's professional team, Lade Majic has played more show basketball than any woman in history. She competes against opposing men players on a nightly basis and represents a great positive role model for young girls.



The Ambassadors will be challenging community leaders and JCHS graduates like Dena Denney. (YES! One of the six Denney children and one who has left the nest of Cindy Denney, director of marketing and customer services) "There are always a few tough players in any place we go," said Lade Majic. Dealing with opposition who do not know what will happen next creates an Ambassadors show that is loaded with spontaneous improvisation humor.

"Proceeds from the event benefit operation and programs at the Jay Community Center in addition to the expansion efforts of a new multi-purpose room," said Community Center Executive Director Jack Houck. For ticket information call 260-726-6477.

Sign up to win two adult tickets and two student tickets to see the Harlem Ambassadors at the Jay County High School on Oct. 30.

Name _____

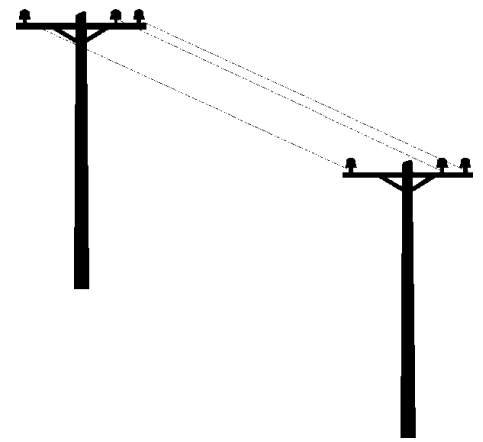
Address _____

Account No. _____

Phone No. () _____

Mail entry to: Jay County REMC, P.O. Box 904, Portland, IN 47371.
Drawing will be held on Oct. 24 at 4:30 p.m.

SIDE LINES



Courtesy of Jay County Tourism Bureau:

October-March — Rockin L Arena Championship bull riding and barrel racing, junior rodeo. Located across from Loy's Sale Barn. Info: Mike Loy, 260-726-4512.
Oct. 4 — Main Street U.S.A., Dunkirk. Arts and crafts, homemade food. Inside West Jay Middle School, in the gym. For booth space call Pam Brown, 765-768-6193, or Connie Whetsel, 765-768-7766.
Oct. 11-12 — Funk Fest. Moderism is Back! A Celebration of the '50s, '60s and '70s. Car show, food, games, and contests. Info: Krista Lucas, 765-369-2497, or Visitor Bureau, 877-726-4481 or 726-3366. Admission: \$1; kids 12 and under free. At the Jay County Fairgrounds.

Courtesy of the Winchester Chamber

Oct. 1-4 — 57th Annual Mardi Gras. Rides, vendors, food at the courthouse square and Saturday parade. Info: Jim Nunez Jr., 765-584-4916.
Oct. 4 — YMCA Mardi Gras 5K Run/Walk. Location: Main Street, Winchester. Info: Tom, 765-584-9622.
Oct. 13-26 — Invasion of the Scarecrows sponsored by Historic Farmland. Info: 765-468-7491
Oct. 25 — Winchester Lions Club pancake and sausage breakfast at Main Street Christian Church. Info: D. Moore, 765-584-7501.
Oct. 26 — Daylight Savings Time ends.

FREE wire wheels

The REMC has several empty wire reels that would make boo-tiful tables for your Halloween party. If interested, reel on in to the REMC and get your free reel(s).

Winner of Alpha Bicycle Helmet:

Joe Glentzer of Portland was the winner of the Alpha Bicycle Helmet from TJ's Bike shop. You can be a winner too, by reading **Electric Consumer**.

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 _____



October is National Cooperative Month

Co-ops help solve problems. When folks have a problem, they often find the best solution by working together. That's what cooperatives are all about.

Cooperative businesses historically were created to provide a service where none was available at an affordable cost, like the rural electric movement in the 1930s. People joined together to accomplish what one could not do alone but what many could do together. Cooperatives are still being formed today to meet business and consumer needs.

All across America, 120 million people are solving problems and enjoying a better life because of their co-ops. People have formed 48,000 co-ops for farming, banking, housing, child care, health care, electric and telephone service, food retailing and other goods and service. They trust their co-ops to help put the pieces together.

The Jay County REMC started in 1936 is an electric cooperative serving the utility needs of mem-

bers in six counties: Adams, Blackford, Delaware, Jay, Randolph and Wells.

The seven cooperative principles that guide the Jay County REMC are:

1. VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP
2. DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL
3. MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION
4. AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE
5. EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION
6. COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES
7. CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

During the month of October the Jay County REMC will have a display in the office lobby providing information on Touchstone Energy, TWN and safety. Stop in and sign up to win a DVD player (for one lucky adult) and a bicycle (for one lucky child).

CO-OP NOTES

Important dates

Electric bills due, Oct. 5. Read meter, Oct. 20.
Happy Halloween, Oct. 31

\$50 cash drawing winner

The \$50 cash drawing winner for the month of August was Glen Dale Shoemaker of Bryant. Congratulations from Jay County REMC.

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