

HOT LINES

July 2023

News about your community and cooperative



Midwest Electric, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

419.394.4110 | 1.800.962.3830
www.midwestrec.com

IMPORTANT MEMBER INFO

See details on the upcoming
rate increase, effective Sept. 2023:
www.midwestrec.com/2023-rate-increase

SERVICE AVAILABILITY CHARGE INCREASING

An investment in reliability

By Matt Berry, CEO

Regardless of how much electricity a particular family uses, the base cost of making service available to each house is roughly the same. That is why every member pays the Service Availability charge each month to cover basic operational, reliability, and outage repair costs. Starting on September's bill, this charge will increase \$10 (from \$35 to \$45) because our costs are going up.

There are four basic components to our monthly residential bill:

- the kilowatt hour (kWh) energy charge
- the Ohio kWh electricity tax
- the flat monthly Service Availability charge
- the Power Cost Adjustment, which reflects part of the cost of power generation and high voltage transmission

Your monthly investment ensures you have access to safe, reliable and affordable power 24/7 when you need it. The Service Availability charge pays for non-stop investing in your power reliability. We need to constantly invest in the maintenance and upgrade of our electric system, usually \$3-4 million per year. This includes poles, wires, transformers, tree trimming, and more. We all need a reliable local energy grid, so we all share in the costs of maintaining and upgrading it.

The Service Availability charge also helps us pay for outage repairs to restore your power after an outage. It helps ensure you'll have power when you need it.

If we lowered our Service Availability charge, the costs don't magically disappear. Let's say we lowered it to a grand total of just \$5 per month,

Continued on back



MISS THE ANNUAL MEETING?

WATCH THE VIDEO BROADCAST ONLINE AT:

- www.midwestrec.com
- [Facebook.com/MidwestElectric](https://www.facebook.com/MidwestElectric)
- [Youtube.com/MidwestElectric](https://www.youtube.com/MidwestElectric)



Apply to be a Community Connection Fund trustee

Midwest Electric's Community Connection Fund (CCF) provides funding for charitable local purposes. The CCF is looking for 3 trustees from Allen/Putnam, Van Wert, and Auglaize/Shelby counties to serve on the Board. Terms expire this fall for current trustees.

The CCF board meets four times a year to review grant applications and decide where funds can make the most impact. No special background is necessary for this appointed position. If interested, please contact Joel Johns for an application at jjohns@midwestrec.com or call 800-962-3830.



Know of a local group or project that needs funding?

Have them apply! Call our office or visit midwestrec.com/community-connection-fund for an application. Each quarter, the CCF dispenses thousands of dollars to community projects in need! That's the co-op way.

Continued from front

a \$40 reduction from the new rates (\$45 – \$40 = \$5). That \$40 monthly cost didn't go away; it still exists to us and still has to be paid by us. So we would have to move it to your variable kilowatt hour (kWh) energy charge. That means people who use more electricity would end up paying more than it

actually costs the cooperative to make service available. People who use less electricity will end up being subsidized.

I hope this explanation makes sense. Please contact me with questions or concerns by phone at 800-962-3830 or by email at mberry@midwestrec.com.



Receive outage and peak alerts straight to your phone!

**DON'T BE LEFT IN THE DARK.
UPDATE YOUR PHONE NUMBER WITH US!**

NO POWER? PEAK ALERT? WE'LL TEXT YOU!

All mobile numbers on file will receive text alerts for outages affecting you and peak alerts notifying you to reduce your electric demand, save money, and conserve energy. (Learn what a peak alert is below in the orange box.)

Call our office at 419-394-4110 to add phone numbers not already on file. (If you prefer not to receive this communication, you can opt out.)



During peak times of 3-7 p.m. on very hot days, **electricity costs more!**

If you can delay or lower your family's electric use during these peak times, you can help reduce demand and save money. Whether you can put off laundry, wait to shower, or turn up the thermostat just a few degrees, it all helps!

Watch our Facebook page on extremely hot days to see if a peak alert is issued. (We will also text you if you have a mobile number on file.) By sharing our Facebook post, you'll be entered in a drawing to win a \$25 bill credit.

BEAT THE PEAK

SEE HOW **YOUR POWER** IS PRODUCED

RSVP for our day-long **Cardinal Power Plant Tour Sept. 14**

Limited availability
Located in Brilliant, OH
Email info@midwestrec.com
Call 800-962-3830



Consider medical needs when prepping for outages

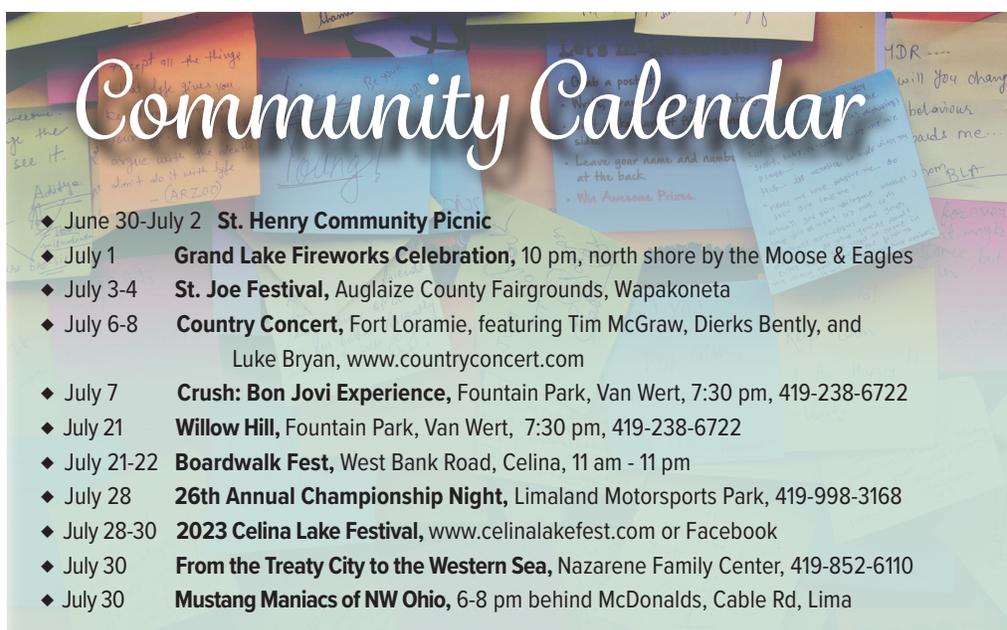


If you have special medical needs (such as oxygen, dialysis, etc.), you need a backup plan in case of a power outage. Consider getting a backup generator, make plans for a friend or relative to help care for you, and ensure your county EMA office knows your needs.

We can't restore power for certain members sooner than for others. We follow a restoration plan that gives priority to the greatest number of members first, then works down to individual outages. If your outage is an individual one, we can only repair it after we've fixed main lines.

For more outage tips, visit midwestrec.com.

Community Calendar



- ◆ June 30-July 2 **St. Henry Community Picnic**
- ◆ July 1 **Grand Lake Fireworks Celebration**, 10 pm, north shore by the Moose & Eagles
- ◆ July 3-4 **St. Joe Festival**, Auglaize County Fairgrounds, Wapakoneta
- ◆ July 6-8 **Country Concert**, Fort Loramie, featuring Tim McGraw, Dierks Bently, and Luke Bryan, www.countryconcert.com
- ◆ July 7 **Crush: Bon Jovi Experience**, Fountain Park, Van Wert, 7:30 pm, 419-238-6722
- ◆ July 21 **Willow Hill**, Fountain Park, Van Wert, 7:30 pm, 419-238-6722
- ◆ July 21-22 **Boardwalk Fest**, West Bank Road, Celina, 11 am - 11 pm
- ◆ July 28 **26th Annual Championship Night**, Limaland Motorsports Park, 419-998-3168
- ◆ July 28-30 **2023 Celina Lake Festival**, www.celinalakefest.com or Facebook
- ◆ July 30 **From the Treaty City to the Western Sea**, Nazarene Family Center, 419-852-6110
- ◆ July 30 **Mustang Maniacs of NW Ohio**, 6-8 pm behind McDonalds, Cable Rd, Lima