

# HOT LINES



Midwest Electric, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

February 2019

News about your community and cooperative

419.394.4110 | 1.800.962.3830  
www.midwestrec.com

## IMPORTANT MEMBER INFO

### 2019 WORK PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

Midwest Electric is planning \$4.1 million in investments in power reliability and electric operations in 2019 — all without a rate increase this year, marking 9 years since the last rate change. Work plans include:

- **Start the multi-year installation of a SCADA and Distribution Automation system** (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition), which reduces the length of major outages by using automation to remotely and quickly transfer load (or “backfeed”) from one substation to another. Currently, the substation outage could last two hours or more. After distribution automation, the outage could last 15 minutes. The goal is to eventually make this switching capability available system-wide to 17 substations and metering points. In 2019, the project will start in the Rockford, Jonestown and Spencerville areas.
- **A budgeted 15 miles of single-phase line rebuild** in the Chickasaw, Kossuth, Lake and Noble substation and metering point areas, and the rebuilding of 2.5 miles of transmission line connecting our Marathon and Macedon substations in western Mercer County. These involve

replacing old copper lines with higher strength aluminum.

- **Replace primary underground conductor** in Cridersville’s Meadowbrook subdivision, and Southmoor Shores on Grand Lake St. Marys.
- **Purchase two new digger derrick trucks.**
- **Pole testing** in the Kossuth and Noble substation areas. All 33,000 of Midwest Electric’s poles are tested on a 10-year cycle for sturdiness and reliability. Typically, less than 1% fail the test, and those are replaced.
- **Tree trimming** in the Bluelick, Rockport, and Noble substation areas. Tree pruning is performed on a 5-year cycle throughout the cooperative’s 1,600 miles of power line.
- **Begin staking process** to connect Coldwater metering point with the St. Henry substation for backfeed reliability.
- **Buy new equipment** (includes transformers and poles).



### HEADS-UP

kWh tax will soon be broken out on your bill

The Ohio kilowatt-hour tax is not a new tax, and it’s not a new charge from Midwest Electric. It used to be bundled in with other costs but soon will be listed as a separate line item for additional transparency on your bill.

### Looking to buy new home appliances?

We’ve added rebates for 2019. You could get a \$50 rebate for purchasing a new ENERGY STAR-certified refrigerator or stand-alone freezer! We also offer rebates for:

- **\$100:** Central AC and mini-split units
- **\$500:** Geothermal
- **\$500:** Air-source heat pump
- **\$200:** Air sealing and insulation
- **\$200:** Electric water heater
- **\$500:** Replace propane with electric water heater
- **FREE** energy audits
- Variety of commercial rebates, including motor and lighting upgrades

Central air, heat pumps, and water heater rebates require installation of a free co-op load management switch. Restrictions apply, and rebates must be approved first. Call our office at 1-800-962-3830 for details or visit [www.midwestrec.com](http://www.midwestrec.com) > My Home > Rebates.

# Value and Stability

NO RATE INCREASE SINCE 2010!

Someone you know could have unclaimed cash waiting for them!

Check at [midwestrec.com](http://midwestrec.com). Click the "My Coop" tab, then "Patronage Cash Back."

## OFFICIAL NOTICE:

### Run for board of directors



Three of the nine seats on the co-op board of directors are up for election. Any member residing in a district up for election may become a candidate by obtaining a petition form from the co-op's office and getting at least 15 valid signatures of members residing in that district.

For 2019's elections, petitions may be filed by members who reside in the following districts:

**District 1 (3-year term): Auglaize and Shelby counties**

**District 3 (3-year term): Van Wert County**

**District 4 (3-year term): Mercer and Darke counties**

To obtain a petition form or learn more about what being a director entails, call our office at 800-962-3830. Petitions are due by May 2 at 8 a.m. in our office.

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WAYS TO PAY

YOUR BILL



### ONLINE

Visit [www.midwestrec.com](http://www.midwestrec.com), click "Pay Bill" to access SmartHub, and create an account. You can also download the free SmartHub app for mobile devices.



### BY PHONE

Call 1-800-962-3830.



### IN PERSON

In our office or by drop box (06029 County Road 33A, St. Marys)



### BY MAIL

Just drop it at the post office!



### AUTO-PAY OR AVERAGE BILLING

Call to set up an electronic funds transfer, which automatically pays your bill for you. You can also even out monthly payments by enrolling in average billing to avoid variations.

## Community Calendar

- ◆ Feb. 2 **Bob Zany, Comedian**, Overdrive, Celina (925-9999)
- ◆ Feb. 2 **Jefferson Starship**, Niswonger Performing Arts Center, Van Wert (419-238-6722)
- ◆ Feb. 2-3 **Tri-State Gun Show**, Allen Co. Fairgrounds (647-0067)
- ◆ Feb. 2 **Ladies' Night Out**, Romer's Catering, St. Henry (419-678-8482)
- ◆ Feb. 9 **Craft Beer and Wine Fest**, Overdrive, Celina (419-925-9999)
- ◆ Feb. 9 **"A Heart's Longing,"** Lima Civic Center (222-5701)
- ◆ Feb. 10 **Cabin Fever Hike - United Way**, St. Marys
- ◆ Feb. 16 **Annual Fabric and Handbag Sale, 8 am - 5 pm**, KAM Manufacturing, Van Wert. [stephaniedawn.net](http://stephaniedawn.net)
- ◆ Feb. 16-17 **POW WOW**, Allen Co. Fairgrounds (587-4249)
- ◆ Feb. 23 **Sweetheart Dance**, Romer's Catering, St. Henry (419-678-8482)
- ◆ Feb. 23-24 **Shipshewana On The Road**, Allen Co. Fairgrounds (419-647-0067)