

VE "C" Watt's New



Vernon Electric Cooperative

December 2007

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Get \$5.00 back...

...on your next electric bill. Just sign up for the Automatic Payment Plan. If you have an account with a credit union or bank, you can now pay your Vernon Electric bill each month without lifting a finger.

Here's how it works:

Each month you'll receive your electric bill as usual. Then on the 20th, your financial institution will automatically deduct your payment from your checking or savings account. This gives you plenty of time to call if you have any questions.

The Automatic Payment Plan saves time, postage and your bill is always paid by the due date. You never have to worry about a penalty charge. To take advantage of Vernon Electric's Automatic Payment Plan, please fill out and send in the form below with your next payment.

Advantages:

- ▶ Save time. You won't have to write a check or send in a payment anymore.
- ▶ Save a stamp and save money.
- ▶ No bills lost in the mail.
- ▶ No worries about late payments. The bill is always paid on time.
- ▶ Earn more interest on your money because your payment isn't withdrawn from your financial institution until the 20th of the month.
- ▶ Your co-op benefits by having less mail processing to do.
- ▶ You still receive a regular billing statement each month to keep you up to date on your account.

AUTHORIZATION FORM

I want to participate in the Automatic Payment Plan

Name(s) shown on VEC bill _____

VEC account number _____

Billing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Work phone _____ Home phone _____

Your financial institution _____

Financial institution address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Your financial institution account number _____

Checking – include a voided blank check.

Savings – enclose a deposit slip that includes your account number.

VEC has the right to cancel my use of the Automatic Payment Plan. I will write to VEC if I decide to cancel my use of the Automatic Payment Plan. If I do not participate in the Automatic Payment Plan for 12 months, the \$5 credit will be charged back to me. ALSO, in the event there are insufficient funds in my account within the 12 month period of time, the \$5 credit will be charged back to me.

Account Holder(s) Signature(s) _____

Date _____

Note: If the account is in two names, both account holders must sign here. Mail this form with your current payment or mail it separately to Vernon Electric Cooperative.

Get another \$5 back...

By signing up for E-Billing, Vernon Electric will credit your account \$5. This would be in addition to the \$5 you may have received for signing up for the Automatic Payment Plan. Both programs together offer you a worry-free and paper-free solution to settling your monthly electric bill without lifting a finger. It also gives you easy access to your account history from any computer anywhere with Internet access.

Signing up for E-Billing is easy. Just go to www.vernonelectric.org and click on "E-Bill" on the top of the homepage to get started.



Open House Winners!

Congratulations to **Arnold Hansen** who correctly guessed the weight of the pumpkin during our Open House. The correct weight was 34.5 lbs. and Arnold won a \$25 bill credit. Other door prize winners were: **Stewart Fortney, Wilmer Homstad, Mary Louise Starch and John Loveless.** They each won a set of energy efficient LED holiday lights.



Did you know that Vernon Electric Co-op members could help minimize power costs by conserving energy during periods of peak electric demand?


The increasing demand for electricity is causing electric costs to rise, since power needs must be met by high-priced generation. To help save money, we ask that co-op members voluntarily reduce their energy consumption between the hours of 4-8 p.m. Please wait until after 8 p.m. before using major appliances.

Wait 'til eight is not an emergency alert indicating a shortage of electricity or line overloading. We simply want you to be aware that you can make a difference by using energy wisely.

Thank you,



VERNON
Electric
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



The Employees and Directors of Vernon Electric Cooperative wish you and yours a safe and enjoyable Christmas and Holiday Season. Our office will be closed December 24, 25 and January 1.

Kid's Corner



Last month's Kid's Corner winner was Johanna Schuh, age 9, daughter of James & Kristyn Schuh of rural Westby.

Win a chance for a gift certificate from a local restaurant by completing the following activity and mailing it back to our office by January 7th. You must be 12 or under to enter.



To complete the message, darken all the letters that appear more than two times.

Remember, electricity and...

_____!



W	J	A	B	G	S	B	T	S
E	R	D	J	G	O	B	J	N
T	G	B	M	I	G	J	X	S

Name _____ Age _____
Parent(s) or Guardian _____ Account # _____

Meet the Power behind the Power John Pesik

We wish the very best to John Pesik on his retirement from Vernon Electric Cooperative. John has worked out of Vernon Electric's Hillsboro office in the line department for 38 years. John, his wife Deb and their son Derek, continue to live in Hillsboro.

"Thanks to my fellow employees at Vernon Electric for all they have done for me and thanks to our members for the opportunity to serve you. It has been a real joy," John said.

Back in 1969, John was talking with lineman, Ron "Butch" Shaker (Butch is now retired as well) about working for Vernon Electric Cooperative. Butch thought John had what it would take to become a lineman. Butch was right.

Growing up, John was not unfamiliar with the utility business. His father, John Pesik Sr., worked for Dairyland Power Cooperative. John, Jr. attended La Farge High School, spent two years in the military and then worked for General Motors in Janesville before joining Vernon Electric Co-op. He started out as an Apprentice Lineman and became a Journeyman Lineman after completing four years of lineman school in Eau Claire, along with his work experience.

What John liked most about his job was the opportunity

to spend most of his time outdoors. There were many occasions, however, that John would rather have been indoors. John said, "Working on sunny days is great but working in ice storms, blizzards and thunderstorms comes with the job too, and those days aren't always so pleasant." John also says he liked the variety of his job. "You're always doing something different every day, nothing is ever the same. Working with the equipment to get the job done right and fast is also something I've always enjoyed about this work."

We take this opportunity to salute John for a job well done.



A home energy audit may be easier than you think!

You CAN do a home energy audit yourself

The first thing to do when performing your own home energy audit is to make a list of any existing problems, such as condensation and uncomfortable or drafty rooms. The next thing is to look for air leaks. They are common around electrical outlets, switch plates, window frames, baseboards, weather stripping, fireplace dampers, attic hatches, and wall or window-mounted air conditioners.

When inspecting windows and doors for air leaks, if you can see daylight around the door or window frame, that is where the leak exists.

When looking at the outside of your home, examine areas where two different building materials meet. This includes exterior corners, areas where siding and chimneys meet, and places where the foundation and the bottom of the exterior

brick or siding meet. Make sure to plug and caulk holes or penetrations for faucets, pipes, electric outlets, and wiring. Also, look for cracks and holes in the mortar, foundation and siding of your home and seal them with the appropriate material. Finally, check the exterior caulking around doors and windows to see if they are sealed tightly.

When performing your own home audit, make sure to examine the ceilings and walls. If these two areas are not properly insulated, you risk heat loss in the winter and cool-air loss in the summer. Check to see that the attic hatch is heavily insulated, as well as weather-stripped and closed tightly. In the attic, determine if openings for items such as pipes, ductwork and chimneys are sealed. If you see any gaps, seal them with expanding foam caulk or another permanent sealant.

For more information on home energy audits and energy-saving techniques, visit www.vernonelectric.org and click on the "Use Energy Wisely" button.

Local Calendar of Events

- Dec. 6 **17th Annual Crafters' Holiday**, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Vernon Memorial Hospital in Viroqua. This is a scholarship fundraiser for area students.
- Dec. 17 **Blood Drive** by the Blood Center of Wisconsin, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Vernon Manor in Viroqua
- Jan. 5 **Westby's Junior Snowflake Ski Jump Tournament**, www.snowflakeskiclub.com

If you know of a local event taking place in late January or early February, we would be happy to advertise it for you, for free, in this newsletter, at our discretion. Please provide us with information before December 12th.

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The information in this newsletter has been prepared for you by David Maxwell, Marketing and Communications. Comments or questions regarding information contained here should be directed to:
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