


# VE "C" Watt's New

**Vernon Electric Cooperative**

**July 2007**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Changes Required in Public Benefits Charge

**T**he state of Wisconsin requires that we collect \$16 per year for each "active" meter on our system – not per member, but per meter. Active meters do not include sub-meters, dual-fuel meters, or any other meter that would cause a "double counting" of energy. But if you have more than one account, the charge applies to each account. Collection of the \$16 occurs monthly over the course of the year at \$1.33 per month. This shows up on your monthly statement as a "Program Charge" line item. The \$16 has two components (per Act 141) associated with it:

1. It provides that \$8 per meter, per year, be charged for funding a low-income energy assistance program, and
2. it provides that \$8 per meter, per year, be charged for funding an energy conservation and efficiency program. This change is mandated by state law under Act 141.

On power bill statements that you have been receiving you have been getting a credit of \$0.67 per month. We are able to justify giving you this credit because of our participation in Dairyland Power's load management program, which controls customer loads during peak energy-use periods. So, your actual charge per month, required by the state, is \$0.66. Please contact our office or visit our website if you have any questions or would like additional information.

## Member Appreciation Picnic

**For the members of Vernon Electric and Vernon Telephone Cooperatives**

**Wednesday, July 11, 2007**

**Readstown Advancement Building**

**Junction of Hwys. 14/61 & 131**

**3 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

**Free hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, beans, pop, milk, coffee, and ice cream.**

**Door Prizes!**

## Attention Budget Billing Participants

**M**any members of Vernon Electric take advantage of our Budget Billing Program. If you are one of them, then this message is for you.

The Budget Billing Program allows you to pay the same amount on your electric bill each month. This allows you to plan ahead for expected payments. The monthly amount you pay is based on your average electric use over the past year. If, for some reason, your average electric use changed significantly, then you might fall behind or ahead on your budget payments.

July is our reconciliation month. This means that

if your monthly payments have not kept up with your monthly electric use, you need to pay the total amount due on your statement this month. Likewise, if your monthly payments have exceeded your monthly electric use, and you have established a credit, then you don't need to send in a payment this month.

The Budget Billing program is just another service Vernon Electric offers for your convenience. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call our Billing Department at (608) 634-3121 or 1-800-447-5051.

***"July is our reconciliation month. This means that if your monthly payments have not kept up with your monthly electric use, you need to pay the total amount due on your statement"***

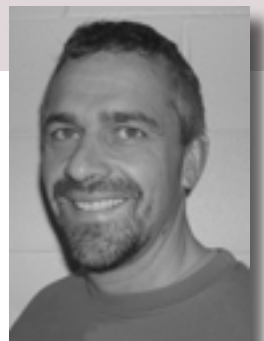
## Meet the Power behind the Power

**M**et Dan "Duke" Flock. Duke was recently hired by Vernon Electric as a journeyman lineman. Since Vernon Electric will soon be facing the inevitability of some retirements coming up in the line department, it was decided to bring Duke on board to get used to VEC's procedures before the soon-to-be retirements took place.

Prior to his arrival at Vernon Electric, Duke worked as a lineman for the Village of Cashton. Before that he

worked for Heartland Country Cooperative.

Duke and his wife, Kathy, have three daughters and lives near Cashton. He enjoys fishing, hunting and helping on his friend's dairy farm on the weekends.



*Welcome to Vernon Electric!*

# Kid's



# Corner

Last month's Kid's Corner winner was Max Tuma, age 11, son of Ric & Susan Tuma of rural Cashton.

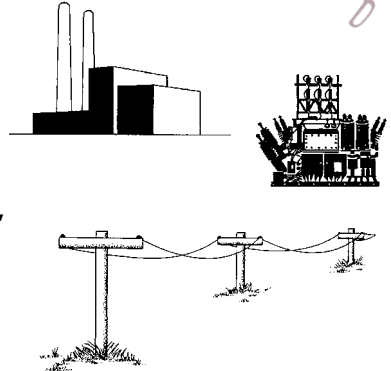
Good luck & have fun!

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



Electricity comes to us through the electrical distribution system. It begins with a generating plant that produces electricity and ends at the outlets in our homes, schools and businesses. Use the words at the bottom of the message to complete this description of the system. The first letter of each word is provided to help you get started.

Electricity is produced at a g\_\_\_\_\_ p\_\_\_\_\_. T\_\_\_\_\_ l\_\_\_\_\_ on tall towers carry very high voltages of electricity over long distances to a s\_\_\_\_\_, where transformers reduce the voltage (strength). Then electricity travels through smaller distribution lines to a t\_\_\_\_\_ on a power pole or on the ground, where the voltage is reduced again. Finally, electricity flows through wires to o\_\_\_\_\_ in our h\_\_\_\_\_, s\_\_\_\_\_, and businesses, where it waits to be used.



**Word Bank:** substation, generating plant, outlets, schools, transformer, homes, transmission lines

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent(s) or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Account # \_\_\_\_\_

## Look Up and Live!

**P**lease be aware of overhead power lines this summer and fall. Here are some typical potential problems to watch out for:

- ▲ Moving a tall ladder
- ▲ Carrying a tree trimmer with a long handle
- ▲ Working on a roof top antennae
- ▲ Working on the side of the house near where the overhead power line attaches to the house.
- ▲ Moving tall equipment or objects such as a bin auger, boom or crane

Power lines are thin wires and can sometimes be hard to see if there are a lot of trees around, so take the extra time to inspect any area you will be working for overhead power lines.

Underground power lines can pose a threat to any digging projects you have planned. So be sure to contact Digger's Hotline at least three business days before beginning your project. Digger's will mark all utility lines in the area of your project. Keep in mind that Digger's will not mark your personal utility lines unless you ask them to. There is a fee to mark you personal lines, but there is no charge to have them mark the utilities' lines.



**800-242-8511**

## Local Calendar of Events

- July 13-15 **Viroqua Bluegrass Festival**, Vernon Co. Fairgrounds. Many bands scheduled. Fri., \$12; Sat., \$17 gate, \$15 after 6 p.m.; Sun. free-will. [www.viroquabluegrass.com](http://www.viroquabluegrass.com) or 637-3820 for more info.
- July 14 **Valley Community Rummage Room**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.. Take Cty. P to Valley in east-central Vernon Co.
- July 18 **"The Last River Rat"**, Kenny Salwey will be in the Bekkum Library Community Room in Westby to tell about his life living off the Mississippi River, 7 p.m. 634-4419 for more info.
- July 28-29 **Kickapoo Country Fair**. A celebration of community and sustainability brought to you by Organic Valley and the Kickapoo Valley Reserve. Farm tours, workshops, music, food, dancing, arts, bicycle tour, and much more. [www.organicvalley.coop/kickapoo](http://www.organicvalley.coop/kickapoo)
- July 31 **Grieg** (Norwegian composer) **Concert**. 7:30 p.m. at Country Coon Prairie Church, rural Westby. Presented by the Solvang Lodge.
- Aug. 3-5 **Western Wisconsin Agricultural Museum, Inc. Annual Show** featuring Minneapolis Moline (Prairie Gold) Farm Equipment. Open flea market, corn shredding, tractors, models, gas engines, camping, tractor & machinery parade, saw mill, threshing, antique vehicles, feed grinding, food on the grounds, field demonstrations. 2-miles north of Westby – 4-miles south of Cashton on Hwy. 27 (S1061) [www.westernwisconsinagmuseum.com](http://www.westernwisconsinagmuseum.com).
- Aug. 8 **75th Celebration of the Genoa National Fish Hatchery**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Open to the public. 608-689-2605, [www.fws.gov/midwest/genoa](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/genoa).

If you know of a local event taking place in late August or early September, we would be happy to advertise it for you, for free, in this newsletter, at our discretion. Please provide us with information before July 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:

VERNON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
110 North Main; Westby, WI 54667  
Call (608) 634-3121 or 1-800-447-5051.

[www.vernonelectric.org](http://www.vernonelectric.org)  
E-mail: [vec@mwt.net](mailto:vec@mwt.net)