# Watts Current

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative

*Reliable.Affordable.Responsible*

June 2018


## Nominating Committee Selected

Seven members were elected to serve on the 2018 nominating committee. The purpose of the committee is to nominate members to serve on RVEC's board of directors. Please contact one of the committee members listed with you board candidate suggestions.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| District 1 | Nick Seidl | District 5 | Dale Wernimont |
| District 2 | Larry Greving | District 6 | Carol Raasch |
| District 3 | Brian Johnson | District 7 | Dale Meyer |
| District 4 | Tracy Onken | | |

*Board President Dave Onken presents Chad Lankford a Meter Tech Training Certificate.*

## Lankford Receives Meter Tech Certificate

RVEC's Meter Technician/ Lead Lineman Chad Lankford completed an intensive meter tech training program from The Rocky Mountain Electric Metering Association. This program is designed to teach participants in metering with electric utilities. Congratulations Chad!


*Jared Hannasch*

## Summer Help

RVEC hired Jared Hannasch to assist the line crew with construction and maintenance of our electrical lines. We are happy you have joined us and are proud to have you part of our Cooperative family! 08.32.01

smart hub

**VIEW YOUR KWH USAGE AND PAY YOUR BILL**

Save yourself some time. Go to www.rvec.coop and pay your bill online.

## Property Taxes Paid

Property taxes are used to help fund such important things as education and city and county government. You might not be aware of it, but your Cooperative pays property taxes. RVEC receives a tax bill for the poles, wires, transformers, etc. out on the line and another tax bill for the office and warehouse. RVEC pays taxes in nine counties that we serve.

The following is a breakdown of the property taxes paid in 2017/2018.

| County | Taxes Paid |
|---|---|
| Audubon County | $3,376 |
| Buena Vista County | $128 |
| Calhoun County | $612 |
| Carroll County | $34,361 |
| Crawford County | $49 |
| Greene County | $2,686 |
| Guthrie County | $335 |
| Ida County | $64 |
| Sac County | $19,586 |

## — CEO Comments —
## What is Grid Resiliency?

*By Jim Gossett, CEO*

Resiliency of the power grid is one of the most popular concepts being talked about a lot in the electric industry today. In the dictionary, resilience is defined as "the ability to bounce back, recover quickly and go back into shape or position after being stretched."

This concept recently made headlines in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which caused extraordinary damage to Puerto Rico's electric grid resulting in the longest sustained outage in U.S. history. What does grid resiliency mean for you?

Resiliency is many things – it is reliability in your electric service and our ability to efficiently restore your power. It is being able to meet the demands of new technology. Ultimately, resilience is how we deliver on our promise to improve the quality of life for our member-owners.

We begin with a system that is designed and built to withstand high winds, powerful storms, cybersecurity threats and other disruptions that could result in outages. A resilient grid is also flexible and adaptable by allowing different types of generation – such as wind, solar, coal and hydro – to seamlessly work together to provide you with reliable, affordable, responsible power in the safest way possible.

Like maintaining our vehicles with regular oil changes and tire rotations, the grid must also be properly maintained. For our part, regular pole and line inspections help us meet the goal to find a problem before it becomes one.

Living in Iowa, we know that significant power outages can occur, especially as we enter spring and summer storm season. While we are at the mercy of storms, we have confidence in the resiliency of our system to recover from the situation with as little disruption as possible.

When it comes to providing our member-owners with resilient service, this is what we work toward – day in and day out! 21.28.01

**RVEC will be CLOSED**

**Wednesday, July 4th for Independence Day.**

***Have a Safe and Happy Holiday!***

## Run ceiling fans to stay comfortable

Installing and running ceiling fans during the summer will make you feel cooler and more comfortable while you are in a room where one is operating.

Because the fans move the air, they create a subtle breeze that feels good when it blows across your skin.

So running a fan in an unoccupied room is a waste of energy. If nobody is there to feel the breeze, there's no reason to create it.

A ceiling fan doesn't cool the house; it just makes someone who is sitting or standing nearby feel cooler.

So turn off your fans when you leave a room, and flip them back on when you return.

A tip: Installing ceiling fans in rooms where your family spends the most time is a good investment in energy efficiency. When you run a ceiling fan, your comfort level will increase so much that you can turn the a/c thermostat up by 4 degrees without feeling any difference.

## Before you go …

You can't wait for summer vacation. But is your house ready?

See the tips below before you hit the road for a long weekend:

- If you're not leaving any pets in the house, crank up your thermostat to about 85 degrees. Don't worry about re-cooling your house when you get home; the energy you save while you're away will exceed the energy it takes to cool the place off when you get home. A caution: Don't turn the a/c completely off. A home that gets too hot during the summer can invite mold and mildew.
- Close all of the windows, for safety's sake. And draw the curtains, shades and blinds. They will block sunlight and heat from getting into your rooms and making your empty house hotter.
- Unplug the TV, computers, phone chargers and countertop appliances. Even appliances that are turned off use energy if they're still plugged in.
- Leave a few lights on for safety, but turn the rest off. Check ceiling fans, alarm clocks, coffee makers and other auto-on devices to make sure they're out of commission while you're away from home.

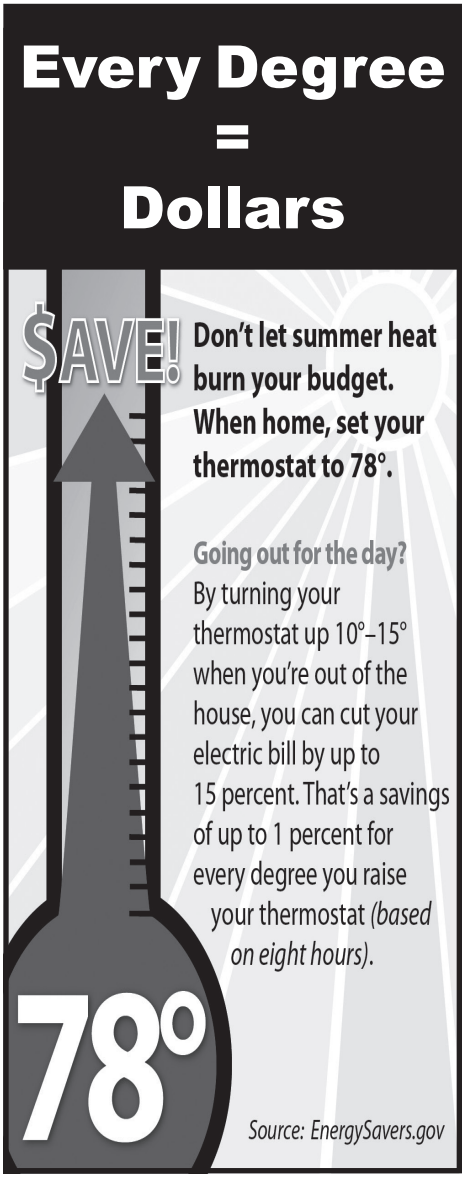
## Membership – Single or Joint

Joint memberships are allowed for RVEC member-owners according to provisions in the Articles of Incorporation. Please read the following questions and answers to consider whether or not you and your spouse should consider a joint membership. 29.01.04

1. **What are the advantages of a joint membership?**
   - With a joint membership, either spouse is eligible to serve on the Board of Directors or the Nominating Committee.
   - Either one or the other may vote at a Cooperative Annual Meeting.
2. **Does a joint membership entitle both the husband and wife a vote at a Cooperative Annual Meeting?**
   - No. A membership, whether single or joint, has one vote. Either spouse may cast the vote, but the joint membership has only one vote.
3. **What happens to the patronage dividends if either the husband or wife dies with a joint membership?**
   - If a husband and wife hold a joint membership and one of the two dies, the membership is considered to be held by the survivor. Ownership assignment of the patronage is transferred to the surviving spouse.
   - In the case of a single membership, if the member dies, the surviving spouse must take out a new membership in his or her name. The patronage is paid out to the deceased spouse's estate and is not assigned to the surviving spouse's new membership.

Forms to change your membership are available at the RVEC office. Look at the name on your electric bill to see if you have a single or joint membership.

Please call if you would like more information about memberships.



# WATTS CURRENT

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Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC) is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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Touchstone Energy®
*The power of human connections*

## Plant in the Right Place

Did you know that carefully positioned trees can save up to 25% of a household's energy consumption for heating and cooling? The Department of Energy states that on average, a well-designed landscape provides enough energy savings to return you initial investment in less than eight years.

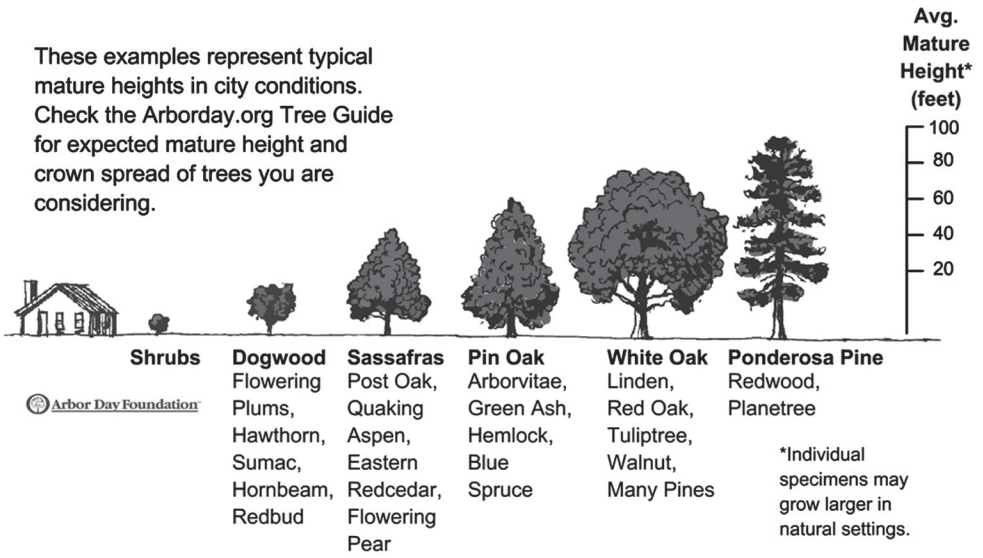
If planting trees and shrubs are part of your landscaping projects this year, be sure to plant the right way. Don't plant under or near power lines. Trees and limbs that come in contact with power lines cause numerous problems including outages, fires and endanger children climbing trees. Storms and winds can also cause branches to rub on power lines causing blinking lights in your home. Trees interfering with power lines are one of the top reasons for power outages.

Before you plant trees, consider what the tree's mature height will likely be. Take the mature height of the tree and plant it that distance from the power line. For example, if the tree you are planting will be 60 feet tall, plant the tree 60 feet away from the power line. See the diagram below for the average mature height of some common trees.

If limbs grow into the proximity of power lines, RVEC may trim the tree to prevent damage to the line and eliminate potential hazards and outages. We will not trim beyond what is necessary to ensure public safety and reliability of service.

Before planting shrubs, check your property for any easement that may restrict where trees or shrubs can be placed. Planting should not limit accessibility to electrical equipment.

Always remember to plan ahead when you plant. You can avoid potential problems and enjoy many benefits by properly selecting and placing your trees and shrubs. 33.36.03




## Spot Your Number

Read Watts Current and watch for your location number. If you spot it, call Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC) by the 20th of the month and you will receive an electrical bill credit for $25.00.