

www.dmremc.com

CONTACT US

Toll Free: 800-762-7362

GENERAL MANAGER

Dave Sutter

OFFICE HOURS

7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday – Friday

STREET ADDRESS

12628 E 75 N, Loogootee, IN 47553

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 430, Loogootee, IN 47553

SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS

To report an outage or emergency, call 812-295-4200 or 800-762-7362 day or night.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Terry Chapman, *President*

Dean Harrawood, *Vice President*

August Bauer, *Secretary*

Travis Summers, *Treasurer*

John Edwards

Dale Marchino

Steve Streepy

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, July 17, 7 p.m.,

Davies-Martin County REMC office

BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS

Online bill payment

Budget billing

Auto bank draft

Drive-through window

Night depository

Credit card payment (VISA,

Discover and MasterCard accepted)

Pay-by-phone

MISSION STATEMENT:

"Our mission is to provide safe, reliable electricity and quality services for our members at a reasonable cost."

Savings Tip

Fridge efficiency

Cover liquids and wrap foods stored in your refrigerator. Uncovered foods release moisture, causing the compressor to work harder.

— U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/daviesmartincountyremc

Unfinished business



Please understand that the schedule for submitting articles to Electric Consumer in order to make printing deadlines is

several weeks in advance of when the magazine actually arrives in your mail. Therefore, I am composing my thoughts on June 4 while thinking about all that has happened this past week. Allow me to elaborate.

Late morning on Thursday, May 31, we had a storm blow through our territory that wreaked havoc on our system. It never ceases to amaze me of what terrible things Mother Nature can do in a 15-minute storm. This storm downed trees, broke poles and pulled power lines to the ground throughout our system. Our staff immediately went into damage-control mode, and our crews started making the needed repairs.

When storms like this one do occur, it is difficult for us to know the full extent of the damage until we get out and conduct field assessments. We also rely on you, our members, calling the outage number (800-762-7362) if your power is out. Between the member calls and our field assessments, we started to get the power restored to the different circuits that were damaged. Our staff ended up working through the night and into Friday. In addition to our regular staff, we also called contractors and neighboring REMCs to help us with the repairs.

As Friday came and went, we still did not have power restored to all members. While we never like to quit before everyone's power is restored, around 10 p.m. Friday, we decided we needed to give staff a break and would start work again early Saturday morning.

On Saturday, our staff and contractors went back to work on the remaining 200+ meters that were still out of power. By the afternoon, that number was reduced to less than 100 meters. The final meters (that we knew of) were re-energized Saturday evening, and our normal weekend stand-by crew was left to take any new outage calls.

For those members who were affected by this outage, we are truly sorry. Power outages are never what we want, and we work very hard to prevent them or reduce their severity. While we were far from perfect, our staff and contractors did work very hard to get your system repaired safely.

Here are a few of the lessons learned that we all can work on:

1. Always keep your distance from downed power lines. Your safety is paramount.
2. Always call in to the 800 number to report a service interruption or any downed lines.
3. Please note that if we have a high volume of calls, you might get a busy signal the first time you call

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- us. If you want to talk to a person instead of the recording, please call back and stay on the line. It will roll over to a call-taker when someone is available.
- 4. Please understand that call-takers likely will not be able to tell you anything about your outage. Their job is to collect your information as quickly as possible and input it into our outage computer system and then get on to the next caller.
- 5. Restoring outages may take several hours. Once you report your outage please allow at least two hours before calling back in.
- 6. We understand that we need to do a better job in supplying you with information during these outages. In the future, we will be working on getting better messaging to our call-takers and the 800 number recordings and will update posts on Facebook and our website (dmremc.com).
- 7. While you are waiting for your power to be restored, please turn off your large energy devices such as air conditioners, water heaters, furnaces, motors, etc. This is important because when our crews do re-energize the power, if everyone's devices such as air conditioners try to come on at the same time, it will trip the power back off and lead to extended delays in getting the power restored.

- 8. Last (but not least), please help us by maintaining your property by cutting trees that are dead or have the potential for taking down the power lines. Please understand that our typical right of way is 20 feet on either side of the line. A dead tree that is 60 feet tall and 40 feet away from the power line can be a problem for everyone down the line.

My thanks go out to everyone that helped us to get through this outage and to those who demonstrated their patience and understanding as we worked to restore power. We know that there will be more storms and outages ahead, and we strive to be better prepared when they occur.

While there is always unfinished business, for me, this will be my last time that I get to write you as the general manager of Daviess-Martin County REMC. The board has recently selected a new manager who will be starting in the near future and will be introduced to you in the August edition of Electric Consumer.

The past few years have gone by fast, and I thank you for the opportunity to serve. My goal has been to leave the cooperative in a condition which is as good or better than when I found it. I wish everyone the best of luck and good fortune as you move forward. As always, please be safe!

DAVE SUTTER
General Manager

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!

Each month, Daviess-Martin County REMC asks our readers three questions. The answers can be found in the articles of Electric Consumer. Clip the coupon below along the dotted line. Fill it out and return it to our office with your monthly payment before the 20th of the month. (Delinquent payments are not eligible.) Each month, a winner will be drawn from the entries submitted. Make sure you bring or mail in your most recent coupon, as the coupons are dated monthly. Members with automatic payment accounts will be entered in the contest as well. Copies will not be accepted, and coupons are not available at the office! Winners will be notified and their names will be published in the following monthly issue of **Electric Consumer**.

MAY WINNER:

Terry Clouse, Mitchell

FOR BILLS DATED THE 5TH OF THE MONTH AND PAID BY THE 20TH

1. If you see a downed power line or experience a power outage, please call 800- ____ - ____ to report it.
2. The _____ - _____'s job is to collect your information as quickly as possible and input it into our outage computer system and then move to the next caller.
3. Restoring outages may take several hours. Once you report your outage, please allow at least _____ hours before calling back in.

.....

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

ACCOUNT NO.: _____

PHONE NO.: _____

timely tips

to save energy and money – and stay safe

We've gathered a wide array of tips and tricks to help you make this the summer of savings and safety!



How you can head off home accidents

- Have an electrician install light switches at each entrance to a dark area.
- Replace worn fuses with new ones of the same size. Replacing a correct-size fuse with a larger one can start a fire.
- Never remove guards from your power tools. Sharp edges and moving parts invite injuries.
- Install a night light in the bathroom or just outside. Think about replacing your regular light switches with “glow switches” that are easy to see in the dark.



What to do if the power goes out during a storm

- Disconnect sensitive appliances, such as TVs, computers and microwave ovens so they won't be damaged by a

power surge when the electricity comes back on.

- Turn on a single light switch. That way, you'll know when your power has been restored.
- If your home floods during the storm, check with an electrician before turning any electric lights or appliances on.
- When the power returns, gradually reconnect appliances to avoid overloading circuits.
- If you've worn out batteries and consumed your stored drinking water and canned foods during the outage, be sure to replace them quickly in case of another incident.



How to reduce your home-cooling costs in the summer

- Turn off the air conditioner and open windows when it's cool outside during the evening. Before the temperature climbs too high, close the windows to trap the cool air in the house.

co-op news

- Air-dry your dishes instead of using your dishwasher's dry cycle.
- Install white or light-colored blinds on all windows. Close the blinds when the sun shines to keep the heat from pouring through your windows.
- Keep lamps away from your air-conditioning thermostat. The heat they generate will fool the unit into thinking the house is hotter than it is, and will cause it to work harder and run longer.
- Easy-to-apply reflective window films block heat without blocking the view.
- Turn off electronics, like your computer monitor, when not in use.
- Cook in a microwave oven instead of a conventional range or on a stovetop.



How to prepare your home for winter while the weather's still nice

- Call a heating professional to service your furnace or heat pump and clean and change all filters and vents. This will make your heating system function efficiently, and it could save you from making a mid-winter emergency call.
- Clean electric baseboard heaters to protect against fires and to prevent that burning dust smell.
- Replace damaged or pulled-away shingles on your roof and check the seals on skylights to prevent leaks during storms.
- Drain pipes under the house and those that lead to garden hoses so they won't freeze and burst when the mercury drops. Insulate indoor water pipes in unheated spaces.
- Inspect insulation to make sure it's not blocking ducts or vents. Blown-in insulation can settle over time and may need replacing.
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, and replace them if necessary. Most models are designed to last only about five years.
- Stock up on batteries for flashlights and radios.



How to keep your garage safe

- Keep raccoons, chipmunks, mice and rodents out of the garage by keeping garbage and uneaten food away from it. Such pests can nest in air intakes and vents, and chomp on wiring.
- Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in the garage.
- Clean up spills. They could be flammable or dangerous to children or pets.
- Discard old batteries by taking them to a recycling center.
- Keep power tools, extension cords and adapters unplugged and stored out of reach of children.
- Ventilate your garage with fans or ceiling vents.
- Check with your insurance agent to make sure the contents of your garage are covered in case of fire or other damage.



How to prevent clothes dryer fires

- Never leave the house while your dryer is running — a malfunction can occur at any time, often with serious consequences. If the dryer does malfunction, immediately turn it off and disconnect the power cord. Call a qualified repair professional to make the needed repair.
- Dryers should be plugged into outlets equipped to handle the electrical load. Overloaded electrical outlets can result in tripped circuit breakers and blown fuses.
- Make sure your dryer is vented to an outside wall and check to see that its exhaust vent is unobstructed and its outdoor vent flap opens frequently. If air is not being directed through the duct, there may be a blockage. In order to remove the blockage from the exhaust path, you may have to disconnect the exhaust duct from the dryer. Be sure to reconnect the vent and duct before restarting the dryer.
- Keep the area in which your dryer is located free from clutter. Make sure there are no combustible materials such as boxes or clothing near the dryer. Use caution when drying clothing saturated in hazardous chemicals by washing them thoroughly. Then, use the lowest heat setting and do not allow contaminated clothing to sit in the dryer or basket with other clothes.