



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

1165 OLD FOREST ROAD
P.O. BOX 517
CORYDON, IN 47112

www.harrisonremc.com

PHONE NUMBERS & HOURS

Local 812-738-4115
Local 812-951-2323
Fax 812-738-2378
Submit Meter Readings 812-951-2023
E-mail: . customerquestion@harrisonremc.com
Web Site www.harrisonremc.com

SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS

To report service interruptions, call:
812-738-4115 or 812-951-2323 day or night.
During regular business hours these phone numbers will connect members to personnel at the Corydon office. After hours, they will connect members to the REMC answering service. Members should restrict calls to the answering service to electrical outages or emergencies.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

C. Daniel Boone, Laconia, President
Ron Meriwether, Georgetown, Vice President
James Smith, Corydon, Secretary/Treasurer
Ronald Albin, Corydon
Pat Book, Palmyra
Larry Breeden, Mauckport
Darin Duncan, Elizabeth
Brian Koetter, Borden
David Walther, Lanesville

SERVICES WE OFFER

- Long distance phone service
- Dial-up Internet service
- Personal medical alert system
- Security lights
- Rebate program
- Metered propane
- Electric fireplaces
- Surge protection
- New home seminars
- Compact fluorescent bulbs
- Discount theme park tickets



Visit our
Web Site
www.harrisonremc.com

CO-opNews

Information from your electric cooperative

FROM THE CEO

70th annual meeting of Harrison REMC

The 70th annual meeting of the Harrison Rural Electric Membership Corporation is scheduled for Tuesday, April 1, at the Corydon Central High School at 7 p.m. Registration will begin at 5:30 p.m.

As a registration gift, each member will receive a \$10 bill credit and three energy efficient compact fluorescent bulbs. There will be a limit of one gift per registered membership. The member or his/her spouse must be present to accept the registration gift. We will have several door prizes to be given away during the meeting.

Beginning at 6 p.m. we will have a video highlighting what has changed in 70 years. In the video we speak with customers who remember when electricity came to their homes and the difference it made in their lives.

The children's entertainment will be the Don Miller Comedy/Magic Show. The program will be from 6:30-8 p.m. This supervised program is for children between the ages of three to eight years old.

The business portion of the meeting will include the election of four representatives to the co-op's board of directors. Directors are elected for three-year terms with the exception of District Six which will be a two-year term. Directors are elected by the voting membership at the annual meeting. This year, members will be voting on directors for service in districts four, five, six and seven.

District Four includes Franklin Township in Harrison County, and the area in Jackson Township, Harrison County, east of State Road 135 and south of State Road 64, and the area in Georgetown Township in Floyd County south



Paul D. Beckort
CEO

of Interstate 64 and west of State Road 62, and the area in Georgetown Township in Floyd County south and east of State Road 62.

District Five includes Franklin Township in Floyd County, Posey Township in Harrison County, and the areas served in New Albany Township in Floyd County south of Old State Road 62.

District Six includes Webster Township in Harrison County east of State Road 337 and Harrison Township in Harrison County east of State Road 135 with the exception of the area served by the Dogwood Substation.

District Seven includes Spencer Township in Harrison County, the area of Jackson Township in Harrison County west of State Road 135, Jackson Township in Harrison County east of State Road 135 and north of State Road 64, Harrison Township in Harrison County west of State Road 135 and north of State Road 62, and all of Jennings Township in Crawford County.

All registered members attending are eligible to vote, but you must be present to take part in the election process. Shuttle service will be available to transport people from the parking lot to the upper entrance of the school.

Harrison County Hospital will be on hand to provide free health screenings for our members. REMC members will also receive discount coupons from Charlie Wilson's Dixie Appliance.

Every member will receive his/her annual meeting notice with his/her March bill. Members need to bring the notice with them to the annual meeting to register, to be eligible to vote, receive their registration gift and to be entered into the drawing for door prizes.

NEWS BRIEFS

Cold weather affects electric bills

To give an accurate picture of how the temperature relates to our comfort level, the National Weather Service uses "degree days" to define the margin between the actual temperature and a baseline of 65, which would be considered comfortable with no heating or cooling devices needed.

Heating degree days are a measure of the severity and duration of cold weather; the colder the weather over a given period the higher the cumulative heating degree-day value. January's number was 953 compared to 821 for the same time last year. That is a significant increase of 16 percent.

Annual report photo contest

Clarence Burgin is the winner of the annual report cover photo contest. The picture will appear on our annual meeting report that is given out at our annual meeting on April 1. We will print the pictures submitted for the contest in the April *Electric Consumer*. Congratulations, Clarence!

Security lights

Harrison REMC asks if you have or if you notice a security light that is not going off during the day to please let us know. REMC maintains and services our security lights. Please let us know by calling 812-738-4115 or 812-951-2323.



Making the right move after an auto accident involving power lines

It is very apparent from the weather since the beginning of the year that it is difficult to predict what might happen next. This is why it pays to be reminded what to do in different situations that may occur. The thing to remember is to make the right move. In this case, it is what to do when you are in an accident involving power lines.

When a vehicle accident brings down a power line, a driver's natural instinct tells him/her to flee danger. Unfortunately these natural inclinations can lead to tragic results.

If your car hits a power pole, or is otherwise involved in a scene with a downed power line, Harrison REMC urges you to stay inside the auto and wait for help. If you come upon or witness an accident involving toppled power poles and lines, don't leave your vehicle to approach the accident scene. The ground around the accident could be energized.

Often our inclination is to step in to help those in danger and offer assistance. But, in accidents involving power poles, your best action is to call for help. Wait for the utility to arrive and de-energize the line, or you could become another accident victim in need of rescue.

If the power line is still energized and you contact the ground and the automobile, your body becomes the path for that electricity and electrocution is the tragic result. Even if a power line has landed on the ground, there is still the potential for the area near your car to be energized. Stay inside the vehicle unless there's fire or imminent risk of fire. It's best to wait until the electric utility crew arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off.

If you are in a vehicle and must get out because of fire or other danger, jump clear of the vehicle without touching it and the ground at the same time. Then hop or shuffle with feet together — don't run or stride, which allows one foot to move from one voltage zone to another. The voltage is highest closest to the vehicle and decreases with distance.

The same rules apply to situations involving large farm and construction equipment that comes in contact with overhead lines. Those working with large equipment should stay inside the cab or remain on the vehicle if equipment extensions come in contact with power lines. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and contact the electric utility.

Television changes coming in 2009

The world of television will be changing come Feb. 18, 2009. Traditional analog over the air television broadcasts will cease on that date and all stations will broadcast digitally. The majority of American consumers already have the equipment and services necessary to watch their favorite programming. There are still an estimated 20 million who will need to take action if they want to continue watching television.

The reason this change is taking place is to free up portions of the broadcast spectrum, which traditional analog broadcasts currently occupy, for use by wireless and broadband services. Some other benefits will be improved communications for public and safety services, and for some, more affordable high speed Internet.

Even though this change can be inconvenient, no matter how you go about the remedy, it will give our emergency services, communications and wireless capabilities the needed boost to improve the overall performance.

For those consumers who use cable or satellite TV no prior action is required because the boxes and/or receiver they have will allow them to receive the digital signals. However, those who receive from the over the air analog broadcasts will need additional equipment.

One exception may be those who have purchased a TV in the past year or two. Those TVs may have a digital tuner and have the ability to

pick up the signals. (It was not required that every TV manufactured prior to March 1, 2007 have a digital tuner.)

Read your owner's manual or contact the business where you purchased the TV to find out if yours is equipped with a digital tuner.

The three options available if you do not have a TV with the digital tuner nor use cable or satellite are:

- Purchase a digital ready television.
- Subscribe to Cable TV or Satellite Service.
- Obtain a converter box to allow your television to receive the digital signals over the air.

Your choice of action will probably depend on how much money you want to spend. Purchasing a TV can cost anywhere from a couple hundred dollars to a few thousand dollars. Subscribing to cable or satellite will add another monthly bill. The least expensive route is to purchase a converter box. This cost is anticipated to be around \$50.

To help defer some of the cost the U.S. Department of Commerce will be providing a coupon program beginning this year. This program provides two \$40 vouchers per household to help with the cost of the converter box.

To apply for the \$40 coupons you can go online to www.dtv2009.gov, call 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009) or complete the form below. Coupons can be applied for anytime between now and March 31, 2009.

Mail completed application to:
**TV CONVERTER BOX
 COUPON PROGRAM
 P.O. Box 2000, Portland, OR 97208-2000**

COUPON APPLICATION

All information must be filled out. Please type or print clearly. This application is to apply for a \$40 coupon which can be used towards the purchase of a TV converter box. Applications must be submitted by March 31, 2009.

1. Your Name and Address:

NAME:

First Middle Last

HOME ADDRESS:

Street Address Apt. #

City State Zip

If the U.S. Post Office does not deliver mail to your Home Address, provide as much information as you can above regarding your Home Address and provide your mailing address below.

MAILING ADDRESS:

If different Street Address - or - P.O. Box #

Apt#

City

State Zip

2. TV Service: Check the statement below that best describes your household.

- All or some of the TVs in my house are connected to one or more pay services, such as cable or satellite.
- None of the TVs in my house are connected to one or more pay services, such as cable or satellite.

3. Coupons Requested: How many coupons do you want? ONE - or - TWO

4. Signature: By signing below, you declare that the above is true and correct.

Signature

Date

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), unless that collection displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number.

Tankless water heaters — the rest of the story

I have been getting a lot of questions about tankless water heaters so I felt it was a good time to run this article again in our ASK REMC column.

Paul Harvey, a well known radio personality, promotes tankless water heaters as if they are the best answer to produce hot water for your family. But the rest of the story that doesn't get told is crucial information to help prevent homeowners from making an expensive and frustrating mistake.

For electric tankless water heaters, the ADVANTAGES over an electric tank style unit are:

1. Requires less space for installation.
2. Can produce hot water continuously.

The electric tankless water heater DISADVANTAGES compared to an electric tank style are:

1. Requires nearly five times more demand for electricity during operation — 20 kw or more compared to 4.5 kw.

2. For some homes, an electric breaker or fuse panel upgrade may be required as their existing panels may not be large enough. These tankless units can consume between 100 and 150 amps while they're operating. 150 amp panels and smaller cannot handle them. There is also a possibility that with a 200 amp panel, lights dimming and other low voltage incidents may occur.

3. The flow rate of hot water at showerheads may be a lot less compared to your present flow or your expected flow. Tankless water heaters are very sensitive to how fast water flows through them. The slower the flow, the hotter the final water temperature.

4. Any electric cost savings between a tankless and a tank type water heater are due to standby losses of the tank model. It takes the same amount of electricity from both units to produce hot water. But today's electric tank type water heaters use foam insulation which is very effective in keeping water hot for longer periods of time than the less effective insulation of several years ago. The California Energy Commission warns consumers that sometimes electric tankless water heaters won't save much energy or money compared to tank style models.

5. When two or more tasks requiring hot water are performed at the same time, the water temperature from a tankless electric water heater gets cooler for both tasks. The temperature of hot water from tank style electric water heaters are not affected by simultaneous multiple tasks.

6. Tankless electric water heaters are much more expensive to purchase than tank style models. And they are more complicated in their construction making homeowner maintenance more important. The present water heater serv-

ice industry does not have the same large network of skilled servicemen available for tankless units that exists for tank style models.

7. Tankless water heaters are NOT instant. If a tankless unit is installed in a basement the same distance from a shower as a tank model, it will take more time for hot water to reach the showerhead with the tankless unit. Tank type water heaters send hot water into the plumbing lines as soon as the shower faucet is turned onto hot. But tankless units require a little more time to start sending hot water into the lines because they have to make it first.

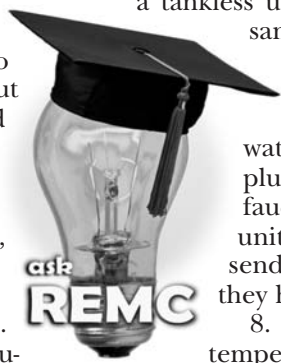
8. In winter, as the incoming water temperature drops, the maximum temperature of the tankless water heater's capability drops also. Colder winter water requires more heat to warm it up to 120 degrees. The tankless water heater cannot compensate for this colder water unless the flow rate is slowed down. Lower flow rates are frustrating to homeowners and not an appealing solution.

9. The electric cost savings promoted in dollars or percent in tankless water heater sales literature is based on a National U.S. average cost of electricity at \$0.1065 per kwh. Fortunately, homeowners served by Harrison REMC have an electric rate for their water heating needs between \$0.06 and \$0.07 per kwh. The actual savings between tankless and tank type electric water heaters is so low, the payback advantage actually is several years.

And very importantly:

10. If homeowners in large numbers choose tankless electric water heaters, our electric rates will go up. Most hot water is consumed in the morning when we awaken and again in the evening after we return home from work and school. These two time periods are REMC's daily peak times for providing electricity to our customers' homes. Most hot water produced by a tank type unit occurs while we sleep and are away at work or school. So the electricity we demand for hot water production will be less at those two peak times of the day from a tank type unit. Tankless units have no hot water stored and must consume all the electricity to produce it during the peak time periods with a five times larger heater. This may cause power availability challenges for Harrison REMC's wholesale provider, Hoosier Energy. The solution could be for Hoosier Energy to buy more expensive electric power on the deregulated wholesale market to meet the demands at those two peak periods of each day or invest in construction of another electric power plant. Either choice will increase the electric rate to Harrison REMC customers.

So call Bob Geswein at Harrison REMC, 738-4115 or 951-2323 to discuss all the issues of tankless water heating. The rest of the story should be told.



Dreaming of building or remodeling?



Attend a Touchstone Energy Home Seminar at Harrison REMC first!

All seminars are FREE and include two nights (Wednesday and Thursday) from 7-9:30 p.m. Learn how to build tight and build right! A schedule of upcoming meetings is listed below.

March 5 and 6

April 2 and 3

May 7 and 8

Call 738-4115 or 951-2323 for more information or to register for a seminar.

Scholarship application deadline

Attention high school seniors: Harrison REMC is seeking applicants for the REMC-IUS scholarship. Harrison REMC will award several \$1,000 scholarships to local students who choose to continue their education at Indiana University Southeast in New Albany. Students must live with a parent or guardian of an REMC member, and be accepted as a full time student at IUS for the 2008 fall semester to be eligible. Applications are available in the "Schools and Community" section of the Web site, www.harrisonremc.com. Deadline to submit applications is April 18.



Photos with the Easter Bunny

March 5
2-7 p.m.
REMC Lobby

A FREE photo of each child will be available as well as treats and goodies. Children can register to win an Easter basket.

(One basket will be given to a boy and one will be given to a girl.)

REMC RATE SCHEDULE

Residential and Farm Service Rate

EXAMPLE FOR 1,800 KWHS

Facility charge	\$15.00
First 750 kwhs @ .08415/kwh	63.11
Next 750 kwhs @ .06820/kwh	51.15
Over 1500 kwhs @ \$.05906/kwh ...	17.72
Power cost tracker 0.001270 per kwh ...	2.29
SUB-TOTAL	\$149.27
Indiana sales tax (6%)	8.96
TOTAL BILL	\$158.23

SECURITY LIGHT RATES

175-watt mercury vapor	\$8/month
400-watt mercury vapor	\$15/month
175-watt M.V. decorative	\$20/month
400-watt M.V. decorative	\$25/month

CUSTOMER SERVICES

- **On-line bill payment** — REMC members can now access their accounts and pay monthly bills via the Internet. Log onto the REMC Web site, www.harrisonremc.com, and click "Access My Account."

- **E-check** — This free service allows members to make a onetime payment via electronic check. Call 738-4115 or 951-2323 during business hours or visit www.harrisonremc.com any time and click "Pay by E-check."

- **Internet service** — REMC offers Internet service for as little as \$12.95 per month. Call 800-470-7362 to sign up.

- **Long distance phone service** — REMC offers long distance service for only 5.9 cents per minute (4.9 cents per minute for customers who choose the e-bill option) with no monthly fees. This low rate applies to all calls made to the lower 48 states, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Discount rates to international locations are also available. Call 800-470-7362 for more information.

- **Personal medical alert system** — Your REMC offers easy to use, medical alert systems to help seniors or disabled family members remain safe and secure in their own home. The medical alert system provides a fast way to summon help in an emergency, 24 hours a day, seven days a week for only \$35 per month for members and \$40 per month for nonmembers with a onetime \$50 set up fee.

- **Automatic payment plan** — Save time and postage by having your electric bill automatically drafted from your designated bank account without additional charges.

- **Budget billing** — REMC can help take the ups and downs out of your billing amount each month by averaging one month's bill based on the previous 12 months of electric use.

REMC chartered bus trips

With gas prices on the rise, sit back, relax and leave the driving to us. Join Harrison REMC on these unique chartered bus trips.

Irish Acres/The Glitz, May 14

Spend a few hours browsing 32,000 square feet of antiques housed in a Depression era schoolhouse in Nonesuch, Ky. The antiques are diverse, with items from four continents and prices to match any pocketbook. Two sisters, daughters of the couple who opened Irish Acres 22 years ago, are your hostesses. Jane rules the antiques and sister, Emilie creates gourmet three-course luncheons in the lower level restaurant, The Glitz, whose decor is a feast for your senses as well as your appetite! Resembling a 1940s Hollywood movie set with smoky mirrors, gauzy drapery and hundreds of twinkling lights, it is hard to imagine it was once the school's cafeteria. We'll stop at Rebecca Ruth Candy Store to bring some sweets home.

Cost: \$45, includes luncheon. Leaving Corydon at 8 a.m., back at 5 p.m.

Metamora, Aug. 15

Step back in time with a leisurely 25-minute cruise on the Ben Franklin III, a horse-drawn canal boat in scenic Metamora. Pass the Duck Creek Aqueduct, a covered bridge that carries the canal 16 feet over Duck Creek. It is believed to be the only structure of its kind in the nation. Flags in front of a building signal it is open for business. Private residences are interspersed throughout the town shops. Our visit will also include viewing the Whitewater Canal State Historic Site and the Grist Mill.

Cost: \$32, includes boat ride. Leaving Corydon at 8 a.m., back at 7 p.m.

REMC offers home health monitors

Given the choice, most seniors and people with medical conditions or physical challenges would prefer to live in their own homes and be as independent as they can. Though this is not always possible, for some the dream can be a reality.

Harrison REMC offers home health alert monitoring systems which provide the ability to summon assistance round-the-clock in the event of a medical emergency.

A representative from Harrison REMC will come to the home to install and explain how to use the system. The system connects to your home telephone line and will automatically place a call to our response center in the event the sensor is activated. The sensor can be activated anywhere within about 100 feet of the monitor. The operator can dispatch help immediately or work with the individual using the two-way speaker on the monitor. Our response center will contact the individuals on the responder list to resolve the emergency. (A common scenario might be a person that has fallen and needs assistance.) The medical alert system makes it possible to immediately contact some-

Covered Bridge Festival, Mansfield, Oct. 15

Join us for a beautiful fall drive to the Covered Bridge Festival. See red or white covered bridges with burr arches or king truss construction. Parke County claims more covered bridges than any county on the world. And what would a festival be without plenty of booths to shop! Wear your walking shoes and bring a shopping bag. You'll be on your own to wander the grounds, try the tempting food vendors wares, and decide whether to shop till you drop. Then enjoy a nap on our drive home.

Cost: \$25. Leaving Corydon at 7:30 a.m., back at 7:30 p.m.

Opry Mills Mall, Dec. 3

Talk about shop till you drop ... this place will do it. It's our annual trip to the largest mall in Nashville, Tenn. Make your list and check it twice, because this trip is really nice! No parking hassles, nap going and coming, and plenty of good places to eat. What are you waiting for? This trip fills up fast. We're even going to stop and let you buy breakfast on the way down.

Cost: \$30. Leaving Corydon at 7 a.m. back at 9 p.m.

REMC bus trip policies

A minimum of 30 preregistered people are required to take each trip. Payment for all trips is due 14 days in advance of trip date. No refunds will be made.

Passenger pick up will be at Lincoln Hills Christian Church in Corydon and at the McDonald's off the Georgetown Exit on I-64.

Call 738-4115 or 951-2323 for more information and for seat reservation.

one to go and help the individual.

The cost of the service is \$35 per month with a one time installation fee of \$50. Non-REMC members can receive the same service for \$40 a month and a one time installation fee of \$50. If you would like more information on the home health monitoring system please contact Cathy Racicot at the REMC at 812-738-4115 or 812-951-2323.

