


# Watt High Lights



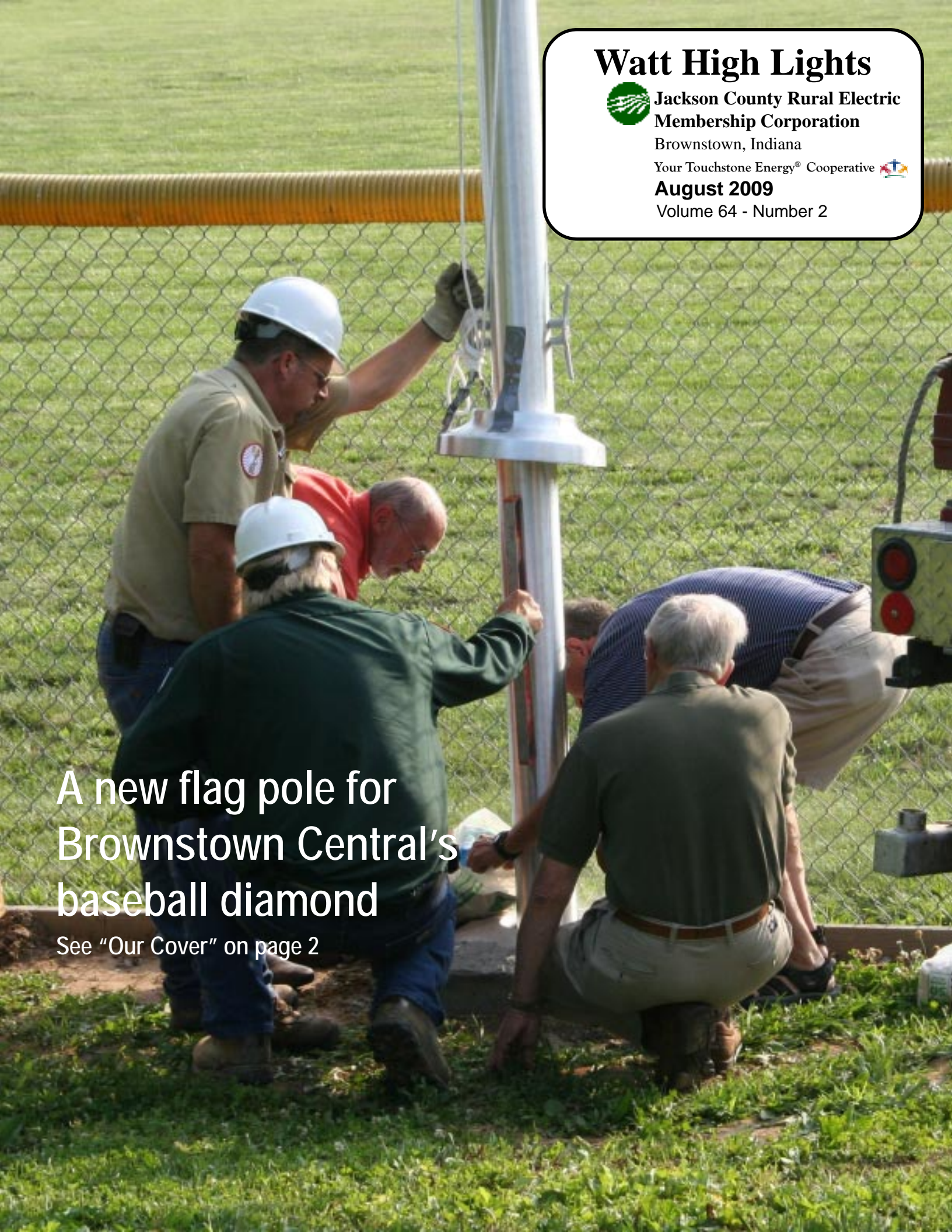
Jackson County Rural Electric  
Membership Corporation

Brownstown, Indiana

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**August 2009**

Volume 64 - Number 2



A new flag pole for  
Brownstown Central's  
baseball diamond

See "Our Cover" on page 2

## Watt High Lights

Jackson County Rural Electric  
Membership Corporation

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Monday through Friday

### To report outages or emergencies

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day or night

### Board of Directors

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### OUR COVER

Jackson County REMC line workers Jeff Kriete (standing, in khaki shirt) and John Weber (kneeling left, in green shirt) help plumb the new flag pole at the Brownstown Central Baseball diamond. The Brownstown Exchange Club replaced the flag pole damaged last year, and the REMC donated the labor to install the pole.

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# 2009 Annual Meeting report to members

*General Manager Jed Wheatley*

This evening, I would like to focus on two challenges in the electric industry that are going to have major impacts: The first is matching up the supply and demand for electricity at a time when building new generation capacity is the last thing that we want to do. The cost of constructing new generation facilities has skyrocketed so that electricity from new plants is roughly twice as expensive as electricity from existing plants. It will often be cheaper to save a kWh than to generate a kWh, and better for the environment.

Which brings us to the second major challenge, and that is how to deal with the greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants. There is now a mammoth piece of legislation that has cleared the U.S. House of Representatives called the Waxman-Markey bill, or more properly the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, that will make it much more expensive to generate electricity using coal-fired generation.

Jackson County REMC has two major initiatives to give its members the tools they need to address these challenges. The first initiative addresses both issues by encouraging smarter, more efficient use of electricity to alleviate the need to build expensive new power plants and to simultaneously benefit the environment. We'll be promoting more efficient appliances and home weatherization, providing better price signals in electric rates, and empowering members with information and opportunities for better energy management.

For example, I hope you will be installing the CFL light bulbs we have been giving away because they produce a similar amount of light to incandescent bulbs while using only 1/4 of the electricity. I also hope that you've seen and consid-

ered the generous incentives that we are offering this year to upgrade the efficiency of your home's HVAC equipment.

In addition, the federal government is offering additional 30 percent tax credits for many of the same investments, as well as other home improvements, such as insulation and replacement windows, even extending to on-site renewable generation for those that have such an interest.

Jackson County REMC has also been steadily implementing the building blocks of a new "smart grid".

For the last year, we have been rolling out a new generation of meters that feature two-way communications that will empower members with information about when power is being used, and with new opportunities to react to price signals and use power when it is most economical.

We will be encouraging members to join together with the members from other rural electric cooperatives in Southern Indiana in an effort to reduce the cumulative peak demand that is placed on the grid at any one time by allowing water heaters and air conditioners to be cycled off and on during peak times, with little or no impact on comfort, in order to further mitigate the need for expensive new generation capacity.

An updated rate design will empower members to manage their energy use wisely by providing price signals for when electricity is more or less expensive. Starting in April of 2010, when Jackson County REMC purchases its electricity at wholesale, it will begin paying a premium for summertime electricity because that is

*Continued on next page*

when electric demand is the highest and the supply is most constrained. Electricity will cost the least in the spring and fall, when peak demands are low. Wintertime pricing will fall in between. There will also be pricing differences through the day. Summertime electricity will be higher on weekday afternoons and evenings. Wintertime electricity will be higher on weekday mornings and evenings. We expect to have similar price signals in the retail rates starting sometime next year.

The second initiative that Jackson County REMC is promoting is for members to contact their U.S. Senators about the new carbon legislation, encouraging them to find a balance between affordable electricity and environmental responsibility. The current legislation did improve considerably as it moved through the House, but it still has a long way to go. There are three primary issues.

First, Congress says that 90 percent of the carbon allowances that electric consumers will need starting in 2012 are being given to them at no charge. However, cooperative consumers in states like Indiana that are reliant upon

coal will only be receiving about 65 percent of their needs, not the advertised 90 percent, a fairness issue that amounts to big dollars.

Second, the schedule to reduce carbon by 17 percent by 2020 is so aggressive that it is most likely not achievable because the technology needed for carbon capture is still under research and development and is not at all likely to be ready for general deployment in time to meet the 2020 deadline.

Last, because of the rising cost of wholesale power, electric rates have already been rapidly rising without carbon legislation so that electricity is hardly affordable for many people. Beginning in 2012, the proposed legislation would add another \$8 to \$24 to a monthly electric bill for every 1,000 kWh, and that's just the tip of the iceberg. No one has a clue what the overall impact of this 1,400 page bill would be on consumers. Estimates run from \$180 to \$3,000 per family per year. There's no way to even be specific about the initial cost of carbon allowances because they would be sold at auction

without a safety valve on the auction price, with the bidding open to speculators. With no way to reduce carbon from coal-fired generation for perhaps fifteen years, and with no alternative to a reliance upon coal-fired generation for decades to come, why should ratepayers who have no viable option have to pay twice, first a penalty or a tax while waiting for the technology to be developed, and then a further staggering amount to deploy the technology?

If you share these concerns, the timing is exactly right for you to contact Senators Lugar and Bayh. If you checked the box on your registration slip today, that is excellent. We will forward your concerns on to Washington. If you didn't, you can still write them or call them, or go to [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop) and there indicate that you're in favor of environmental solutions that are fair, achievable, and affordable.

We believe that, in today's world, electricity is a necessity, and, if we get involved, we can keep it from becoming a luxury.

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## Congratulations, good health & good luck, Don!

We wish longtime REMC employee Don Gardner all the best as he kicks back and takes life easy in retirement after nearly 39 years of service to the REMC. While Don's official retirement date was July 1, his last day on the job was May 15.

Don began his REMC career on September 8, 1970, when he was assigned as a Groundman to work with the REMC's service and construction crews. Don served several years as a Lineman and was later promoted to Serviceman. He most recently worked as a Line Serviceman on one-man truck #133.

Good luck and good health, Don. May you enjoy many happy retirement years with wife Jane, daughter and son-in-law Tammy and Jeff Lewis, grandsons Steffan and Skylar Lewis, and your mother in Florida.



Don Gardner was presented with a lamp made from an electric meter during a retirement party on his last working day on May 15. Don retired after nearly 39 years with the REMC.

## 2009 Annual Meeting wrap-up

# Weather cooperates for a pleasant 71st Annual Meeting evening

The 2009 Annual Meeting was held on July 23 at the Jackson County Fairgrounds. Mother Nature surprised us with a cooler-than-normal evening and dry skies that helped encourage 730 members to turn out for the annual event at the Jackson County Fairgrounds.

Energy conservation and pending legislation concerning energy and the environment were topics of interest when members talked with REMC employees and several of our guests. We were pleased to have representatives from Indiana Statewide Association, Hoosier Energy and Sherlock Homes, along with several Jackson County REMC employees, on hand to discuss members' concerns. The REMC also presented an educational display of meters and equipment being used by the cooperative as it develops its new "smart grid" technology program.

The election of directors took place at the business session. Re-elected to the board of directors for new three-year terms were Walter Hunter of District 2, Jerry Kelley of District 5 and Earl Potts Schmidt of District 8. Other nominees included Dannie Sullivan, Thomas Julian and David A. Hall of Districts 2, 5 and 8, respectively. Re-elected during the board's organizational meeting to one-year terms as officers were John Trinkle - president; Earl Potts Schmidt - vice-president; and Jerry Kelley - secretary-treasurer.

Magician Daniel Lusk took the stage in the pavilion and entertained the children attending the Annual Meeting while their parents attended the business meeting. Following the business meeting everyone in attendance was then treated to an hour of music and fun by the music duo and Indiana's own "Cook & Belle".

We extend our thanks to all of our members who joined us for this year's meeting. We look forward to gathering with you again at our 2010 Annual Meeting. The tentative date for next year's meeting is Thursday, July 22, at the Jackson County Fairgrounds.

## 2009 Annual Meeting at a glance

### Directors elected to 3-year terms

District 2 - Walter Hunter; District 5 - Jerry Kelley; District 8 - Earl Potts Schmidt

### Board officers re-elected

President - John Trinkle; Vice-President - Earl Potts Schmidt; Secretary-Treasurer - Jerry Kelley

### By the numbers

730 - Number of REMC members registered and received ballots

431 - Number of ballots cast in election of directors

280 - Gallons of ice cream served during the two-hour registration period

11 - Number of lucky REMC members winning door prizes



Magician Daniel Lusk receives some assistance from a youngster attending the children's show at the 2009 Annual Meeting.

Many members took advantage of the "early bird" ballot boxes as they voted for directors from districts two, five and eight.



The lines were long at the ice cream dipping stations. Members enjoyed 280 gallons of various flavors of the cold, sweet treat this year.

Several members learned about the REMC's new automatic meter reading system from employees Kyle Swaby (center) and Kyle Williams at the Annual Meeting.



## A tip of our hat to:



- The Jackson County Fair Association board for allowing us to use the fairground's facilities for our Annual Meeting.
- Nominating committee members (District Two) Jeff Anderson, Jerome Clampitt and Gary Faubion, (District Five) James (Jim) Broady, Terry Jones, Billy M. Coomer, (District Eight) Louis Fleetwood, Gary Wischmeier and Steve Wray.
- Election and Credentials Committee members: Phil Walker, Jean Day, Gerald Whitted, Denver Hackman, Roy Hendershot, Jr., Wilbur Nieman, and Courtney Kruse.
- The REMC employees and their children who dipped ice cream, and the members of Immanuel Lutheran Church for use of their food stand as our ice cream dipping station.
- Members of St. John Lutheran Church for serving supper from their food stand.
- Jackson County Sheriff's Reserve officers for providing security and parking services.
- The REMC employees and directors who planned, staffed and conducted the meeting.

# 2009 energy efficiency incentives for Jackson County REMC Members

In an effort to lower the total system demand of electricity for Jackson County REMC and to delay the need of new generating capacity for our wholesale power supplier, Hoosier Energy, we are offering the following energy efficiency incentives for 2009. Incentives apply to equipment installed and operating in the 2009 calendar year in homes or structures connected to Jackson County REMC. Interpretation of qualifying equipment and installations are at the sole discretion of Jackson County REMC. Jackson County REMC reserves the right to modify or discontinue the incentives at any time without notice.

*Visit our website: [www.jacksonremc.com](http://www.jacksonremc.com), or contact our Member Services Department for more information.*

## 2009 Jackson County REMC Incentive Program

Equipment	Conditions	Specs	Rebate
<b>Electric water heater</b>	Must have an Energy Factor of 0.90 or greater	40 gallon	\$25.00
		50 gallon	\$50.00
		80 gallon	\$125.00
<b>Air-to-air heat pump</b>	Installed in a new home; replacing an older air-to-air heat pump; replacing a fossil fuel heating system; back-up system may be electric or fossil fuel (dual fuel)	14 SEER	\$225.00
		15 SEER	\$275.00
		16 SEER	\$325.00
		17 or greater SEER	\$375.00
<b>Air-to-air heat pump replacing existing electric resistance heat</b>	Installed to replace an existing electric heating system such as ceiling cable, baseboards or an electric furnace	14 SEER	\$325.00
		15 SEER	\$375.00
		16 SEER	\$425.00
		17 or greater SEER	\$475.00
<b>Geothermal heat pump with electric-heat back-up</b>	Installed in a new home; replacing any type of heating system other than an existing geothermal system		\$1,000.00
<b>Central air conditioner</b>	Installed in a new home; replacing an old central air conditioner	14 SEER	\$125.00
		15 SEER	\$175.00
		16 SEER	\$225.00
		17 or greater SEER	\$275.00

Visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) to view a detailed list of qualifying home improvements and HVAC equipment and to find information about how to apply for the related tax credits. As with any tax credits, we advise you to check with your tax consultant or the IRS for eligibility requirements before you make your purchase or home improvements.



## Let's talk about it Is it time for a do-it-yourself home energy audit?

*With a little guidance you can make your home  
more energy efficient*

One of the first steps in making your home more efficient involves understanding how it uses energy. Just as a doctor has to do a thorough examination of a patient before writing a prescription, your home will need a good inspection before most inefficiencies can be identified and corrected.

You can easily conduct a basic home energy audit with a simple but diligent walk-through. When auditing your home, keep a checklist of areas you have inspected and problems you find. **Full lists are available online to help you find most trouble spots in a few key areas. Try checking the Alliance to Save Energy Home Energy Checkup ([www.ase.org](http://www.ase.org)) or Touchstone Energy Cooperatives® Home Energy Saver ([www.touchstoneenergysavers.com](http://www.touchstoneenergysavers.com)).**

### Locating air leaks

First, make a list of obvious air leaks (drafts). The potential energy savings from reducing drafts in a home may range from 5 percent to 30 percent per year, with a much more comfortable residence the result. Check for indoor air leaks, such as gaps along a baseboard or edge of the flooring and at junctures of walls and ceiling.

Inspect windows and doors for air leaks. If you can rattle them, the movement means possible air leaks. If you can see daylight around a door or window frame, then the door or window



has a leak; you can usually seal these through caulking or weather stripping.

Inspect all outdoor areas where two different building materials meet, including all exterior corners, siding and chimney junctions and areas where the foundation and the bottom of exterior brick or siding join. You should plug and caulk any holes or penetrations for faucets, pipes, electric outlets and wiring.

Also, look for cracks and holes in the mortar, foundation, and siding, and seal them with the appropriate material. Check the exterior caulking around doors and windows, and see whether exterior storm doors and primary doors seal tightly.

When sealing any home, be aware of indoor air pollution and appliance "backdrafts." Backdrafting occurs when various appliances that burn fossil fuels and exhaust fans in the home compete for air. An exhaust fan may pull combustion gases back into the living space. This can obviously create a very dangerous and unhealthy situation.

### Insulation

Heat loss through the ceiling and walls in your home could be substantial if insulation levels are less than the recommended minimum. When your house was built, the builder likely installed the amount of insulation recommended at that time. Given today's energy prices, your insulation might be inadequate, especially if you have an older home. Online

energy audits will provide more details on checking insulation levels in the attic, walls, and basement.

### Heating & cooling equipment

Inspect heating and cooling equipment annually, or as recommended by the manufacturer. If you have a forced-air furnace, check filters and replace them as needed. Generally, you should change them about once every month or two, especially during periods of high use. Have a professional check and clean your equipment once a year.

### Lighting

On average, lighting accounts for about 10 percent of a home's electric bill. Examine the wattage size of the lightbulbs in your house. You may have 100-watt (or larger) bulbs where 60 or 75 watts would do. You should also consider compact fluorescent lightbulbs for areas where lights are left on for hours at a time.



**More information on both do-it-yourself and professional energy audits can be found at [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov).**

*This article is courtesy of the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy*

## Next Issue . . .

### Better Breakfast Month

It's true -- breakfast IS the most important meal of the day. We'll print some great breakfast casserole recipes that you can make and serve to give your family a jump-start on their day.

Send recipes, topic ideas, cooking questions & suggestions to:

**Watt High Lights**

**Jackson County REMC**

**PO Box K**

**Brownstown IN 47220-0311**

**fax: 812-358-5719**

**e-mail: [bbaute@jacksonremc.com](mailto:bbaute@jacksonremc.com)**

## Slow cooker efficiency

A slow cooker is most efficient when:

- You avoid lifting the lid. Every time you lift the lid you lose heat equal to 30 minutes of cooking time.
- You make sure the cooker is at least half full and no more than two-thirds full.
- You place vegetables on the bottom and around the sides of the cooker since they take longer to cook than meat. Place meat on top of the vegetables and add a cup of water or broth.

# SLOW COOKING IN A FAST FOOD WORLD

*by Betty Baute, Member Services Assistant*

I love using my slow cooker. I just can't beat coming home --- or waking up --- to a meal that is nearly ready to put on the table. And, I can't beat the small amount of preparation that goes into most slow cooker meals and side dishes.

I also like trying out recipes for things you just don't expect to come out of a slow cooker --- like the bread recipe I'm sharing this month. In the same time it takes to knead, raise, knead, raise and bake a traditional loaf of bread, I can now just stir it up, give it a quick knead, pop it in my slow cooker and have warm, crusty bread! It's a plus that my slow cooker also uses less electricity than my oven!

## Slow cooker white bread

2-1/4 teaspoons active dry yeast	1 cup lukewarm water
1 teaspoon sugar	1 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup warm water	1/4 cup sugar
1 large egg	3-1/2 to 4 cups flour
1/4 cup vegetable oil	

Mix yeast, 1 teaspoon sugar and 1/4 cup warm water; let stand 5 minutes. Add egg, oil, lukewarm water, salt, remaining sugar and 2 cups flour. Beat 2 minutes with electric mixer. Stir in remaining flour and knead in bowl until smooth and elastic. Place dough in a slow cooker that has been lightly coated with non-stick spray. Cover and cook on high 2 to 3 hours. Remove crock from cooker; let stand 5 minutes before removing bread from crock. Cool before slicing.

## Slow cooker breakfast casserole

1 bag (32 ounces) frozen O'brien potatoes	12 large eggs
2 cups cooked ham, cubed	1 cup milk
1-1/2 cups shredded cheese	salt & pepper to taste

Coat slow cooker crock with non-stick spray, then layer 1/3 potatoes, 1/3 ham and 1/3 cheese; repeat layers, ending with cheese. Beat together the eggs, milk and seasonings. Pour over ingredients in crock. Cover and cook on low 10 to 12 hours or until casserole is set and eggs are cooked. Yield - about 10 servings

## Hot fruit salad

1 can (20 ounces) pineapple tidbits  
1 can (20 ounces) pears  
1 can (20 ounces) peaches  
1 can (20 ounces) apricots

1 can (20 ounces) cherry pie filling  
1/3 cup brown sugar  
1/2 pound (2 sticks) margarine

Drain and dice all of the fruit. Combine all ingredients in a 5-quart slow cooker crock that has been coated with non-stick vegetable spray. Cover and cook on high for 1-1/2 to 2 hours. Serve alone, or over angel food cake or ice cream. Yield - about 12 1-cup servings.

## Slow cooker Swiss chicken

6 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves  
6 slices deli-style Swiss cheese  
1 can cream of mushroom soup, undiluted

1/4 cup milk  
2 cups chicken stuffing mix  
1/2 cup butter, melted

Lightly coat slow cooker crock with cooking spray. Place chicken breasts in crock. Top with cheese. Combine soup and milk, mixing well. Spoon over chicken; sprinkle with stuffing mix. Drizzle melted butter over stuffing mix. Cook on LOW 8 to 10 hours or on HIGH for 4 to 6 hours. Yield - 6 servings



## ENERGY SAVER TIP OF THE MONTH

Use a slow cooker instead of your range's oven when cooking tougher cuts of meat. The slow, even heat of the slow cooker makes tougher, less expensive cuts of meat more tender. Using a slow cooker also saves energy. A slow cooker on the "high" setting operates at about 300 watts, compared to 3,000 watts or more for your oven. This means a 300-watt slow cooker uses just 2.4 kilowatt-hours in 8 hours, while a 3,000-watt oven uses 6 kilowatt-hours in just 2 hours.

## Slow cooker safety tips

- Always begin with a clean cooker, clean utensils and a clean work area. Wash hands before and during food preparation.
- Use your slow cooker on a flat, sturdy surface.
- Keep the cord of the cooker on the countertop where small children and pets cannot reach it and pull the cooker down.
- If you are not at home during the entire slow-cooking time and the power goes out, throw away the food even if it looks done. If you are home, finish cooking the ingredients immediately by some other means, such as an outdoor grill or a gas stove.
- Leftovers should be refrigerated within two hours after cooking is finished.
- Reheating leftovers in a slow cooker is not recommended. However, leftovers can be brought to steaming on the range or in the microwave and then transferred to a preheated slow cooker to keep hot for serving.
- If possible, begin the cooking process on the HIGH setting for the first hour, then reduce the setting to LOW for the remainder of the cooking time. However, it is safe to cook on LOW the entire time if you are leaving home and preparation time is limited.

# Community Calendar

To have your non-profit group's event listed in our "Community Calendar," please contact us by letter, phone or e-mail (bbaute@jacksonremc.com) at least six weeks before your event date. Include a phone number we can call to verify your information.

## Bartholomew County

**September 12 - Car, Truck & Tractor Show** at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Waymansville. Show begins at 3:00 p.m. Food, drinks and desserts will be available. For more information or to enter a vehicle call Margie Trimpe at the church (812-342-4921).

## Jackson County

**August 14, 15, 20 & 21 - "You Have the Right to Remain Dead"** - a murder mystery comedy with audience participation will be presented by Jackson County Community Theatre. Advance tickets available at Family Drug in Brownstown and Bevers Family Pharmacy in Seymour. For more information call 1-812-358-5228 or visit [www.jcct.org](http://www.jcct.org).

**September 11 & 12 - Brownstown Melonfest** - 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. both days. Free stage entertainment, contests and activities. Food, crafts and flea market vendors. Parade on Saturday. For more information call the Brownstown Chamber of Commerce (812-358-2930).

**September 12 - St. Peter's Ladies' Aid Bake Sale** during the 2009 MelonFest. Baked goods available in front of Brownstown Hardware from 8:00 a.m. until goods are sold. Contact Ilene Nehrt (812-358-3004) for more information.

**September 19 - Annual chicken barbecue and porkburger fry & antique tractor drive.** Food served dine in or carry out at the Cortland school beginning at 4:00 p.m. Tractor drive leaves the fire station at 10:00 a.m. Proceeds from the events benefit the Hamilton Township VFD. Contact Ed Flynn (812-497-2944) for more information.

**October 4 - Sauers Men's Club annual soup and sandwich supper** and bake sale at St. John Lutheran School. Soups, sandwiches, salads, drinks. Serving from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Contact Richard Stuckwisch (812-522-6231) for more information.

**October 10 - Annual Houston Fall Festival** from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Salt Creek Township community of Houston. Craft booths, cake walks, greased pig contest, carriage rides in the Hoosier National Forest, gospel and bluegrass music and much more. Parking and admission are free. Festival proceeds go to maintain and preserve the Houston School, built around 1916. Contact David or Janet Fisher (812-995-2315) for more information.

## Jennings County

**September 5 - Annual chicken barbecue** sponsored by the Spencer Township VFD in Hayden. Serving chicken dinners (1/2 chicken, baked beans, applesauce, roll and drink) from 12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m. Carry-out available. For more information call 812-767-6089.

**September 5 - Hayden's Harvest Festival** from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Events include an antique tractor show, chicken barbecue, bluegrass and gospel music, garden tractor pull and the Luke Elsner Memorial Walk-Run. Call 812-346-6812 for more information or to obtain a festival schedule.

**September 12 - Hayden Bluegrass & Gospel Jamboree** - Open jam from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.; main show begins at 5:30. Call the Hayden Museum (812-346-7779) for more information.

## Lawrence County

**October 10 - Soup Supper & Cookie Walk** from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Erie United Methodist (718 Erie Church Road). Call the church (812-279-1731) for more information.

## Scott County

**August 21 & 22 - 27th Annual Leota Country Frolic** sponsored by the Finley Township Volunteer Fire Department. Activities begin at 6:00 p.m. on Friday and

11:00 a.m. on Saturday. Music, food, contests & games, tractor parts swap meet, pedal tractor pull, talent contest and more. Contact Leon Dart (812-216-0627) or Dennis McCleery (812-752-2078) for booth reservations or festival information.

**August 22 - Music at the Museum** from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Area gospel musicians and singers to perform at the Scott County Heritage Center and Museum. Call the museum (812-752-1050) for more information.

**September 16 - Brown Bag Lunch** program at 12:00 noon at the Scott County Heritage Center & Museum. Featured will be *Down Memory Lane* by Dorothy Rice. Bring your own lunch. Desserts and drinks will be furnished. For more information call the museum at 812-752-1050.

**September 19 - Ed Cozart's Walk & Talk, The Story of Marion Tyler**, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Scott County Heritage Center and Museum. \$8.00 per person. Call the museum (812-752-1050) for more information.

**September 21 - Scott County Historical Society Dinner** at 6:00 p.m. Featuring Tony Susnick speaking on *The Reno Brothers*. \$6.00 per person. Call the Scott County Heritage Center and Museum (812-752-1050) for more information.

**October 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 - Ghost Tours** - 8:00 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. - Advance tickets \$10.00 per person. Call the Scott County Heritage Center and Museum (812-752-1050) for more information.

**October 15 - Scott County Historical Society Fall Luncheon** at 12:00 noon; featuring *Indiana Bad Music*. \$10.00 per person. Call the Scott County Heritage Center and Museum (812-752-1050) for more information.

*Continued on next page*

# Community Calendar continued

## Washington County

September 19 & 20 – Old Settlers Day Festival, Salem Indiana – 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Saturday and 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday located at The John Hay Center/ Stevens Memorial Museum. Free entertainment on the stage of The Depot, contests and activities. Food, crafts and Settlers Market vendors. If you would like to be a vendor please contact Becky Day at 812-620-4718 for more information.

September 26 - 6th annual Franklin Township School reunion will be held at the home of Bob and Jane Marquand, 790 S. Franklin School Road. beginning at 4:00 p.m.. Bring a covered dish and a 2-liter drink plus any memorabilia that you would like to share. For more information contact Jane Marquand (812) 967-2056.

Second Thursday of each month - Washington County Memorial Hospital's Diabetic Support Group meets at 1:00 p.m. Contact dietician Jackie Kramer at the hospital (812-883-5881 ext 1163) to register or for more information.

Weekends now through November 29 - The restored Beck's Mill will be operating and open for tours. The nonprofit group Friends of Beck's Mill, Inc., will greet visitors from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sundays. Contact Lowell DePoy (812-472-3749) for more information or to schedule special group tours.

The REMC office  
will be closed on  
September 7 for  
Labor Day.

## Dollars & Sense

# Energy conservation tips for outdoor lighting

*Save money with outdoor lighting devices  
that provide decoration, security and safety.*

Outdoor light fixtures, including post- and wall-mounted fixtures, floodlighting and ground-level walkway lighting, provide safety, security, and decoration. Outdoor lighting can also extend the times you can enjoy outdoor activities at your home, farm or business.

Many people have begun to utilize specialty lighting without realizing that their electricity bills will be affected. You can take some simple steps to lower your exterior lighting energy usage, and in turn save money. The savings can add up quickly.

## Energy conservation & selection tips

ENERGY STAR® labeled outdoor light fixtures are more efficient than conventional fixtures and help save you money on utility bills.

For security purposes, consider



Solar walkway and patio lights are attractive and help pay for themselves by using renewable electric energy instead of regular alternating current energy.

installing motion detectors that turn the lights on only when there is activity in the area. The lights will stay on for a period of time, then automatically shut off.

Fluorescent and light emitting diode (LED) bulbs are recognized for their long life, relatively small size and their energy efficiency compared to incandescent lighting. Fluorescents and LEDs can be used in various types of exterior lighting.

Solar walkway and patio lights that use renewable electric energy are also widely available and easy to install.

## Timing is everything

Set lighting timers to come on after 7:00 p.m. to avoid the "electricity rush hour" or peak demand period. You should also take the season into consideration and delay turning on the lights to a later time to take advantage of the longer daylight hours during our Daylight Saving Time months.

Timers should also be set to turn the lights off at an appropriate time to avoid having them on all night long.

## Do regular maintenance

Make a regular nighttime check of your lighting to make sure it is in good working order and it is doing the job you desire.

Keep tree limbs, plants and shrubs trimmed back so your lighting can do its job. Unmaintained vegetation can rob you of the light you are paying for.

Sources: *various*

When calling or writing please give the name and account number shown on your label or billcard.

**TELEPHONE (812) 358-4458**  
**TOLL FREE (800) 288-4458**

During regular office hours you will be connected with our switchboard operator. After regular hours you will be connected with our answering service. Please call during regular office hours for all business other than outages or emergencies.

**OFFICE HOURS**

7:30 AM to 4:30 PM - Monday through Friday

Local calls - 812-358-4458

Toll free - 800-288-4458

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**We Need Your Help.**  
Senators are drafting climate change legislation NOW, and you can impact the outcome.



**Climate change legislation should be:**

**Fair.**

Climate change legislation needs to recognize regional differences in how electricity is produced.

**Affordable.**

Any Climate change plan must keep electricity affordable for all Americans.

**Achievable.**

Climate change legislation must be realistic to ensure long-term success.

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