

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

www.myremc.coop
www.orangecountyfiber.coop

CONTACT US

Office: 812-865-2229
 Toll Free: 888-337-5900
 Bill Payments: 855-865-2229 (Option 2)

EMAIL

orangecoremc@myremc.coop

OFFICE HOURS

7 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday-Friday

STREET ADDRESS

7133 N. State Road 337
 Orleans, IN 47452

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 208, Orleans, IN 47452

**TO REPORT SERVICE
 INTERRUPTIONS, PLEASE CALL
 855-865-2229, (OPTION 1)
 DAY OR NIGHT.**

Have the phone number associated with your account ready when reporting outages. Please limit after hours calls to emergencies and outage situations.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Eugene Roberts, District 1
- Randy Roberts, District 2
- Danny Easterday, District 3
- Rodney Hager, District 4
- Ben Lindsey, District 5
- Brian Hawkins, District 6
- George Key, District 7

REMC SENIOR STAFF

- Matthew C. Deaton,
General Manager/CEO
- Marcy Bennett, *Office Manager*
- Misty Tincer, *Accountant*
- Mark Belcher,
Member Services Manager



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
[www.facebook.com/
 orangecountyremc](http://www.facebook.com/orangecountyremc)

New magazine name reflects our connection to you



Regular readers of Electric Consumer may be perplexed by a few things:

Why haven't you received your Electric Consumer in the

mail this month?

Why is your cooperative CEO writing a column in a new magazine that showed up in the mail?

There's a simple explanation.

Starting this month, Electric Consumer has a new name: Indiana Connection. Throughout the last four decades, the name Electric Consumer aptly described the commonality among the magazine's audience. But recently, the magazine's staff and representatives of its subscribing electric cooperatives felt the focus of the publication no longer fit with the limitations of the name.

True, articles about electricity and local co-op programs and activities were included in the magazine but the rest of the content didn't match what the name implied. Over the years, the magazine has evolved to also celebrate the people, places, food and travel experiences that define Indiana. The maga-

zine's name needed to accurately reflect what was beyond the cover.

We at Orange County REMC are excited about this new chapter of your electric cooperative's magazine. Indiana Connection is all about our connection with you and the communities we serve. Your electric cooperative is YOUR electric cooperative — owned and controlled by you. Through Indiana Connection — just as we've done through Electric Consumer — we hope to celebrate and strengthen our relationship with you by letting you know what's going on in your corner of the world. One example of that is our ongoing efforts with Orange County Fiber. Get an exciting update on the progress of this project to bring affordable high-speed internet to all REMC members on page 8.

Just as this magazine is all about forging connections, so are we at Orange County REMC. We are proud to be an essential part of the communities we serve and look forward to strengthening those connections through this magazine with a long history, but a new name.

MATTHEW C. DEATON
 General Manager/CEO



co-op news

Rate Schedule

How to compute your monthly electric bill:

Use this information to figure your bill for electric use in January, February and March.

Rate Schedule for Standard Service

Standard Service Consumer Charge.....	\$26
Standard Service Energy Charge.....	\$0.1124
Wholesale Power Cost Tracker ..	\$0.0032734
Total bill x Indiana sales tax	7%

Example for 1,200 kWh

Standard Service Consumer Charge.....	\$26
1,200 kWh @ \$0.1124	\$134.88
Wholesale Power Cost Tracker	
1,200 kWh @ \$0.0032734.....	\$3.93
Total	\$164.81
Indiana sales tax	\$11.54
Total bill	\$176.34

Rate Schedule for Time-of-Use Service

Time-of-Use Consumer Charge.....	\$30.90
Energy Charge On-Peak	\$0.1671
<small>(On-Peak: 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., Monday–Friday, EST)</small>	
Energy Charge Off-Peak.....	\$0.0691
Wholesale Power Cost Tracker .	\$0.0032734
Total bill x Indiana sales tax, 7%	

Example for 300 kWh (On-Peak) and 900 kWh (Off-Peak)

Time-of-Use Consumer Charge.....	\$30.90
Energy Charge On-Peak	
300 kWh @ \$0.1671	\$50.13
Energy Charge Off-Peak	
900 kWh @ \$0.0691	\$62.19
Wholesale Power Cost Tracker	
1,200 kWh @ \$0.0032734	\$3.93
Total	\$147.15
Indiana sales tax	\$10.30
Total bill	\$157.45

Rate Schedule for Security Lighting

Security Lighting: 100 W HPS	\$9.82
Security Lighting: 40 W LED.....	\$9.82

Visa, MasterCard and Discover cards accepted

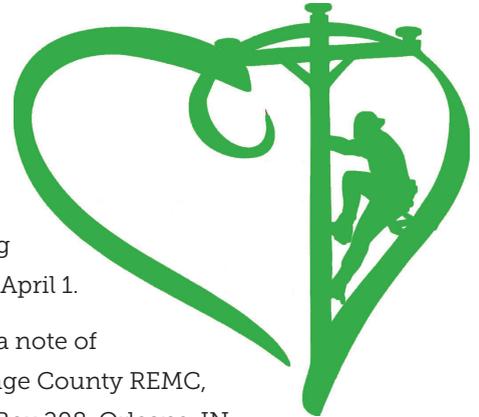
Pay by phone at 855-865-2229, option 2.

Visit www.myremc.coop for these services:

- Pay online
- Pre-pay your bill
- Sign up for recurring monthly payment

Love our linemen

Our hard-working linemen are such an important part of our company and community. Will you join us in showing them some love?



Orange County REMC is hosting a card party for our linemen on April 1.

We're asking members to write a note of appreciation and mail it to Orange County REMC, ATTN: Love Our Linemen, P.O. Box 208, Orleans, IN 47452. You can also stop by our office and sign a card for them, or leave them a note on our Facebook page.

How to read an LED label

In recent years lighting has gone through significant changes. New LED bulbs last longer, cost less to use and are getting cheaper to purchase. However, it can be a little confusing when shopping for bulbs, since in years past all we typically compared was watts. New labels have much more information. Take a look at this infographic to help you understand the different traits of LED bulbs.

Lighting Facts Per Bulb

Brightness	870 lumens
Estimated Yearly Energy Cost	\$1.57
<small>Based on 3 hrs/day, 11¢/kWh Cost depends on rates and use</small>	
Life	5.5 years
<small>Based on 3 hrs/day</small>	
Light Appearance	
Energy Used	13 watts

Brightness — The brightness of the bulb is measured in lumens. The higher the number, the brighter the bulb.

Life — Estimated lifespan based on 3 hour per day use.

Energy Used — Watts are the measurement of energy required to illuminate the bulb. The lower the number, the less energy used.

Light Appearance — The color hue is measured on a light spectrum ranging from 2700 to 6500 Kelvin.

Estimated Yearly Energy Cost — Estimated cost for daily use of the bulb depending on current rates and use.

Visit our online lighting store at myremc.coop to purchase discount bulbs.

Right-of-way clearing helps deliver safe, reliable power

There are many ways that Orange County REMC provides you with safe, reliable electric service. One of the most common, and crucial ways is referred to as right-of-way clearing (or vegetation management).

A right-of-way (ROW) refers to a strip of land underneath or around power lines that Orange County REMC has the right and responsibility to maintain and clear.

Trees must grow at a distance far enough from conductors that they will not cause harm to individuals or disruption to electrical service. Orange County REMC's specifications can vary, but a general guideline for maintaining safe ROW clearance is 10 feet for single-phase and 20 feet for multiple-phase on either side of the primary conductors, cut ground to sky.

Reliability

Clearing of ROW is critical to keeping our members' lights on. An average of 13 percent of power interruptions occur because trees, shrubs or bushes grew too close to power lines. If a tree intrudes on this safe distance, our vegetation management team will trim back branches and brush using chainsaws, bucket trucks, tree climbers, brush chippers, mowers and sky trimmers. Chemical control methods may also be used as a way to combat the growth of low-growing plant species that will outcompete the tall trees growing beneath power lines.

Staying ahead of the game helps us avoid coming out after a storm to restore power due to fallen trees and broken branches.

Safety

ROW clearing also keeps your family safe by ensuring that tree branches do not become energized due to close contact with a downed power line. Power lines can carry up to 12,2470/7,200 volts, and an energized tree branch is incredibly dangerous — even deadly. Be mindful when around trees close to power lines, and make sure your children know that climbing trees near power lines is extremely dangerous.

Staying ahead of the game helps us avoid coming out after a storm to restore power due to fallen trees and broken branches. Remember to contact Orange County REMC if you have trees near any power service or line that may need to be removed. You should never trim a tree in the right-of-way zone on your own.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact our office during normal business hours of 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 812-865-2229.



co-op news

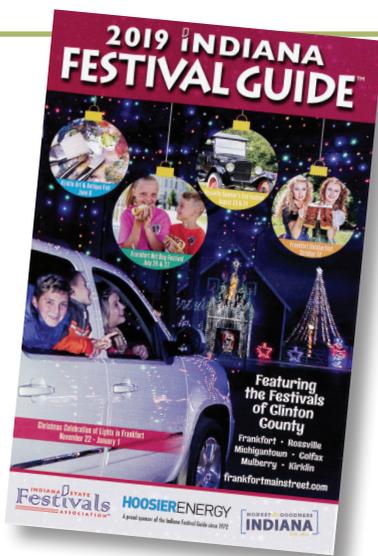
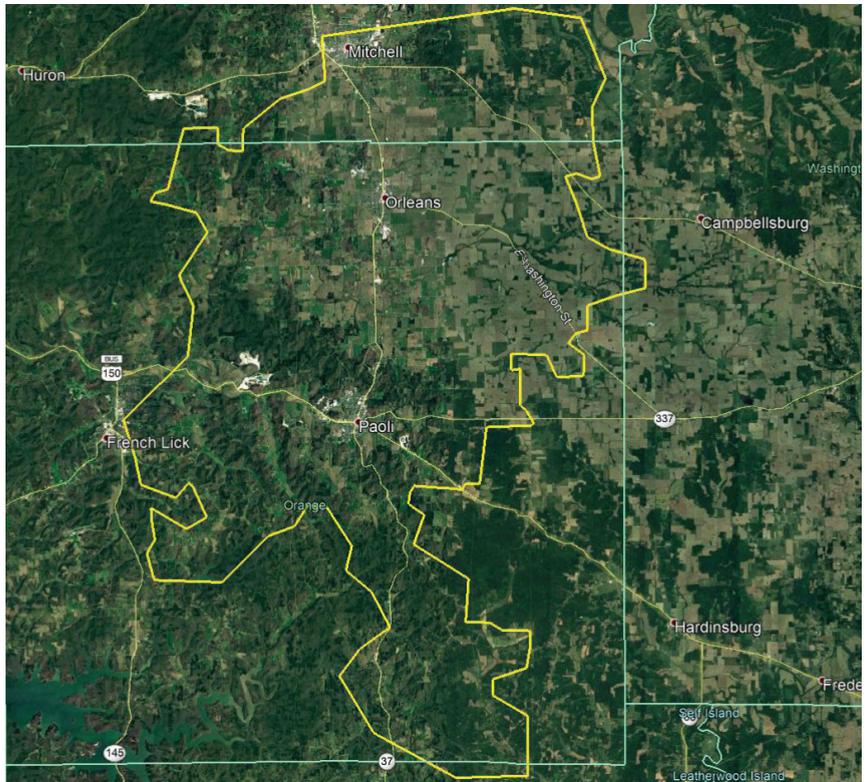
Orange County Fiber project is on schedule

Orange County REMC is pleased to announce that the first beta test has been connected and is operational, and phase 1 of the Orange County Fiber project is on schedule to be completed later this spring.

Construction of phase 2 will begin in May and should be completed within 18 months. The area included in Phase 2 is shown at right.

If you want to learn more about the Orange County Fiber project, and our work to bring affordable, high-speed internet to all REMC members, check out www.orangecountyfiber.coop and like our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/orangecountyfiber.

We will also continue to post updates in this magazine as they are available.



Festival Guides now available

Stop by the Orange County REMC office to get your free copy today. Supplies are limited.

Save
the
date!



2019 director election timeline

Randy Roberts (district 2) Rodney Hager (district 4) and George Key (district 7) are incumbents whose terms expire in 2019.

- Petitions of nominations due by April 23.
- Nominations by the board (absent incumbents seeking re-elections or petitioners) by April 23.
- Full slate of candidates posted and mailed by May 17. All candidate biographies published in the May or June issue of Indiana Connection.
- Election at annual meeting on June 7.