



Watt's New

JULY 2026



Vernon Electric Cooperative

"Information for our members."

Monthly Co-op **Trivia**

JUNE TRIVIA:

The electric unit of power is the watt, named after James Watt. What did Watt invent?

Answer: Born in Greenock, Scotland, James Watt (1736-1819) invented the letter copying press, an early prototype of the photocopier. He also invented the condenser for steam engines and coined the term "horsepower". His name can be seen on almost every light bulb package throughout the world.

JULY TRIVIA:

In what year did Vernon Electric Cooperative build the Hillsboro outpost at the intersection of Highways 82 and 33, which is still used today?

(See next month's newsletter for answer.)

Summer Heat: Smart Ways to Save Energy

Summer heat can strain both your comfort and your budget. As temperatures rise and energy demand peaks in the late afternoon and evening, it's time to take action.

Lower energy consumption and stay cool without breaking the bank:

- Change your air filter regularly to help your HVAC system work efficiently.
- Increase your thermostat setting two degrees and set it to a higher temperature when you are away.

- Install a smart or programmable thermostat for automatic temperature control.
- Run washers, dryers, and dishwashers early in the morning or late in the evening.
- Wash full loads of laundry in cold water.
- Reduce activities that generate heat in the home, like cooking during the hottest parts of the day and using heat-inducing appliances.

Make small changes to reduce energy use for a big impact. You will keep cool, save money on your electric bill, and help reduce energy demand.

Celebrate America's 250th Birthday Safely

This year, communities across the country will come together to celebrate America's 250th birthday with family, friends, neighbors, and plenty of summer fun. As you enjoy the holiday, take time to appreciate the people around you and the traditions that make this milestone special.

With a little planning and attention to safety, we can help make America's 250th birthday a memorable

celebration for everyone. Fireworks may be a holiday favorite, but they can also be dangerous. Be sure to follow local laws, keep a safe distance, have water nearby, and leave larger displays to the professionals. Please be mindful of pets, neighbors, and dry conditions that may increase the risk of fire.

Celebrate, enjoy, and stay safe!

National Night Out 2026

Get ready for an exciting evening of fun, community, and connection at **National Night Out 2026!** Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, August 4**, and join us at the Vernon County Fairgrounds as we celebrate neighborhood unity, safety, and community spirit.

National Night Out is a great opportunity to meet local first responders, explore emergency vehicles, and enjoy a variety of family-friendly activities. This annual event brings neighbors together, strengthens community connections, and helps build partnerships that make our neighborhoods safer and stronger for everyone.



Cooperative Picnic Brings Community Together in Genoa

Vernon Electric Cooperative once again joined forces with VernonCom to host a community picnic in the village of Genoa.

Despite unpredictable weather and severe storms in the forecast, members were still able to gather, visit, and enjoy a meal together. The picnic featured favorite classics, including hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, cookies, and, of course, cheese curds.

The event was simple yet meaningful, offering a chance to connect with community members and celebrate the cooperative spirit. Thank you to everyone who joined us in Genoa!



Marx Represents Vernon Electric Cooperative on NRECA Youth Tour

Braxtyn Marx, an incoming senior at Westby High School, represented Vernon Electric Cooperative (VEC) during the recent NRECA Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

More than 2,000 students from across the country gathered in the nation's capital for the annual leadership event, where they explored historic landmarks, met with elected officials, and connected with fellow students representing electric cooperatives from nearly every state.

Marx's participation was especially notable as he was one of six Wisconsin students selected by his peers to serve on the Wisconsin Youth Leadership Board of Directors following last year's Youth Leadership Conference. While many students attending Youth Tour are selected by their local electric cooperatives, Marx earned his position on the board through his leadership and involvement, representing both Wisconsin and VEC with distinction.

During the weeklong experience, students visited many of the nation's most recognizable landmarks and institutions, including national monuments and memorials, museums, and FBI Headquarters. They also participated in a wreath-laying ceremony

at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

While the itinerary was packed with educational opportunities and plenty of walking, students also had opportunities to relax and build friendships. One highlight was an evening dinner cruise on the Potomac River, where students enjoyed tacos, music, and scenic views while networking with nearly 500 fellow cooperative youth leaders from across the country.

The NRECA Youth Tour continues to provide students with a unique opportunity to learn about government, leadership, and the cooperative business model while creating memories and friendships that often last a lifetime.



"Youth Tour was an unforgettable experience. I highly encourage other students to attend YLC for the opportunity to go to D.C. You won't regret it".

VERNON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

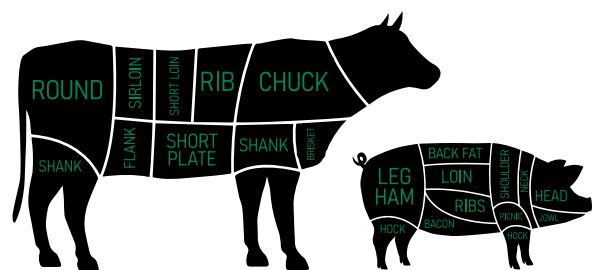
MEAT GIVEAWAY

5th Annual Meat Giveaway Underway

Our 5th Annual Meat Giveaway is officially underway! This annual fundraiser helps support ongoing improvements to the livestock buildings at the Vernon County Fairgrounds.

Stop by our office during regular business hours to enter for a chance to win one of four \$100 gift certificates to a local meat locker. Entries are available for a \$1 donation each or six entries for \$5.

You can also find us at Vernon County's National Night Out and the Vernon County Fair, where we'll be accepting donations for entries.



Join us in supporting our community—all proceeds go directly toward fairground improvements.

The drawing will be held after the Vernon County Fair.

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The information in this newsletter has been prepared for you by Trevor B. Clark, Director of Member Services. Comments or questions regarding information contained here should be directed to:

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