



Daylight Saving Time Ends Nov. 5

Remember to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday, Nov. 5. It's also a great time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors.



BARC Offices Closed for the Holidays:

- Thursday, Nov. 23, and Friday, Nov. 24, for Thanksgiving;
- Monday, Dec. 25, for Christmas; and
- Monday, Jan. 1, for New Year's Day.

BARC directors and employees wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

BARC ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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Office Hours: M-F, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
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Chief Executive Officer
Bill Buchanan

Local Pages Editor
Amanda Cunningham

BARC Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Power of Giving

At BARC, we are committed to improving the quality of life in our communities.

Our BARC team is thankful for the community we serve and are grateful for all the opportunities we had this year to help serve our members.

BARC holds value in our commitment to our communities and this holiday season is no different. Within our own community, some families are forced to choose which bills they can actually pay, which often leads to past-due balances piling up and even disconnection of services.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Built upon the foundation of members helping members, BARC's community service program Power from the Heart is designed to help members keep the lights on when times are tough.

Power from the Heart was created to help those members in emergency situations who have fallen on hard times and require assistance paying their energy bills. The program is available when traditional sources of assistance fall through. By choosing to participate, members agree to have their electric bill rounded up to the nearest dollar, costing



Manager's Message

Bill Buchanan
CEO, BARC Electric Cooperative

a maximum of only 99 cents each month. Funds raised through Power from the Heart may be individually small, but cumulatively make a significant and positive difference in our members' lives. Roughly 15% of people in our area struggle to pay their electricity bills. BARC member service representatives work diligently each day to find ways to help members avoid disconnection of service. Now, qualified members facing financial hardship can also find help through Power from the Heart.

All funds raised through Power from the Heart are exclusively used to meet extraordinary local needs. Help fellow members keep the power on with funding coming from small heartfelt contributions.

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Enroll in Power from the Heart today by visiting the link below to sign in to the customer portal and select "Services" at ebill.barcelectric.com/onlineportal.

5 Ways to Safeguard Your Home this Winter



As the temperatures drop and the days grow shorter, there's a natural inclination to create a warm and cozy haven at home. Unfortunately, as we see increased use of heating equipment, candles and electrical items, the number of home fires tends to increase during winter months.

Here are five ways you can safeguard your home for the winter season.

Energy-Efficiency Tip of the Month

The holiday season is upon us, and that means we'll be using more energy in the kitchen! When possible, cook with smaller countertop appliances instead of the stovetop or oven. Smaller appliances like slow cookers, air fryers and Instant Pots consume less energy.

When using the oven or stovetop, match the size of the pot to the heating element and place a lid over the pot while cooking. The food will cook faster, and you'll use less energy.

Source: energy.gov

1. Ensure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly.

If your detectors are battery-operated, replace the batteries annually. Test the detectors once a month and give them a good dusting to ensure the sensors are clear of dirt and debris.

2. Inspect electrical cords. We depend on more cords during winter, whether for holiday lighting, extension cords or portable heaters. Before using any corded items, double-check to make sure cords aren't frayed or cracked. If you use portable space heaters, remember to keep them at least 3 feet away from flammable items. Use models that include an auto shut-off feature and overheat protection. Space heaters can take a toll on your energy bills. Use them efficiently (to heat smaller spaces) and safely. Never plug a space heater into a power strip.

SPEAKING OF POWER STRIPS ...

3. Avoid overloading electrical outlets and power strips. When overloaded with electrical items, outlets and power strips can overheat and catch fire. If you use power strips for multiple

devices, make sure the strip can handle the electrical load. For a safer bet, look for power strips that include surge protection.

4. Clean the fireplace to improve safety and efficiency. There's nothing better than a warm fire on a chilly night, but it's important to maintain your fireplace for safety. As wood burns, a sticky substance known as creosote builds up in the chimney. When creosote buildup becomes too thick, a chimney fire can ignite. The chimney should be cleaned at least once a year to reduce fire risks. Regular cleaning also improves air flow and limits the amount of carbon monoxide that seeps indoors.

5. Practice safety in the kitchen. As we spend more time in the kitchen during the holiday season, be mindful of potential fire hazards. Never leave food that's cooking on the stovetop unattended. Clean and remove spilled foods from cooking surfaces and be mindful of where you place flammable items like dish towels.

BARC Communities

BARC Hosts Safety Day

On Sept. 21, BARC employees gathered for the first ever, all-employee Safety Day to put focus on our No. 1 priority, safety.

BARC employees had a full day receiving hands-on training from Thomas Andrews at Rockbridge Fire/Rescue, RCSO Deputy Troy Wimer, staff from Rockbridge Health and many other safety professionals.

Chief Operations Officer Chris Botulinski says, "At BARC, safety is everyone's responsibility, not just those that work on our poles and wire. This first



Thomas Andrews, Rockbridge Fire/Rescue, trains staff on fire extinguisher safely.

company-wide safety day emphasized to all our employees that BARC's commitment to safety is our top priority, and providing them continued education and empowerment is the path to maintain the successful safety culture we have."

BARC Supports Bath County Fair



On Sept. 23, BARC employees were out at Millboro Elementary School for the Bath County Fair. Children even got a chance to visit with BARC Connects' very own Butch!



Local Events

Veterans Day Ceremony Lexington

10 a.m. | Saturday, Nov. 11

Lexington Presbyterian Church sanctuary

This event was entrusted to the Lexington Woman's Club because of its long record of service to the community beginning in 1911. The event could not be carried out without the work of the committee members, the support of the Club, and the giving spirit of the pastor and staff at Lexington Presbyterian Church.

For more information, please contact Julie Goodrich at hcirdoog@hotmail.com or 772-696-2351.

Wintertide Highland County

Join Highland County, Va., during the holiday season on Dec. 2. Slow your pace, and enjoy the sights, sounds and tastes of this special time! There will be a Wintertide Arts & Crafts market, visit from Santa and a parade in Monterey. For full details, visit highlandcounty.org.

Annual Main Street Christmas Village Bath County

Dec. 16 | Bacova Beer Company

This event coincides with the Hot Springs Christmas parade. Call 540-839-5409 for more information.

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