



SALT RIVER ELECTRIC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

A Publication For Members Of Salt River Electric Cooperative Corporation

Kay Lewis, Editor



**Retired Salt River lineman honored
for his volunteer work**

Salt River News

A monthly publication for the 53,593 members of the Salt River Electric Cooperative Corporation, serving Bullitt, Nelson, Spencer, and Washington County, plus portions of six surrounding counties, since 1937.

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On Our Cover

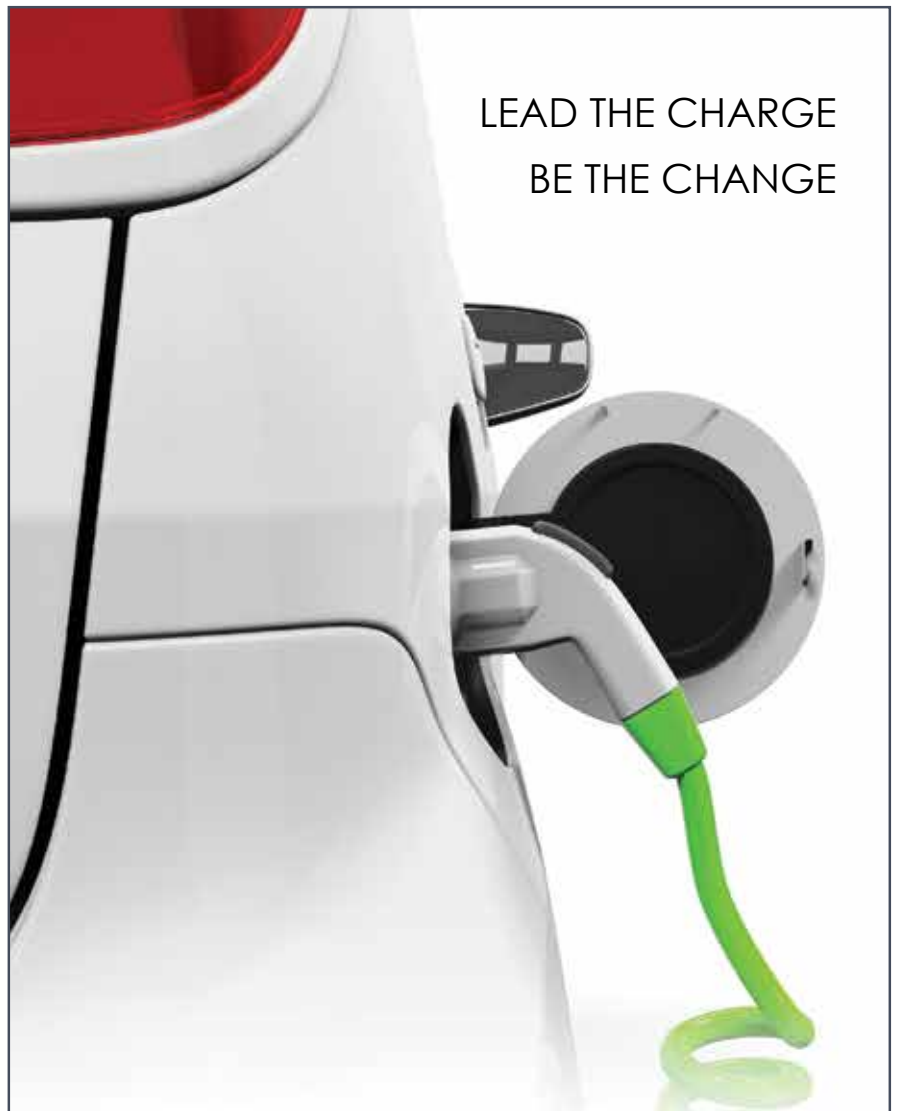
Retired Salt River Electric lineman Billy Marks works with 4-H students showing them how to wire a parallel circuit.

Recently he received the Outstanding Dedication Award from the Nelson County 4-H organization for his volunteer work.

Billy's dedication to teaching electrical safety has inspired many young people over the years and his wealth of knowledge has been an invaluable resource to Salt River's electrical safety program.

Read more about his award on pages 28D-E.

Photo: Danielle Hagler




LEAD THE CHARGE
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From phone booths to Bluetooth. From tube televisions to live streaming. Change is the essence of progress.

Electric vehicles cost less to "fuel", have almost no maintenance cost, offer the convenience of charging at home and help make the world a little smarter. The era of electric vehicles is now.



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Pay your Salt River Electric bill where you shop with “CheckOut”

“CheckOut” is a convenient new way for Salt River Electric members to pay your electric bill where you shop. Participating retailers are listed on this page. Paying where you shop is as easy as 1, 2, 3. Here’s what you need to do:

1 Get your barcode. The barcode is unique to you.

2 Find a location. Choose one of the participating retail stores convenient for you.

3 Pay where you shop. Give the cashier the amount of the bill and pay as you check out.

To get your barcode, go to our website at <https://billing.srelectric.com> and click on the “CheckOut” button on our homepage. The barcode is unique to you and will need to be saved so you can present it when using “CheckOut.”



Once you have the barcode, you will need to find the nearest retail location by clicking on “find a location.” A map will show you all the payment locations near you. You can pay at over 50,000 selected retail locations across the U.S.

When you’re out shopping at any of the selected retailers, just ask the cashier when you check out to scan your barcode and apply your dollar

amount of your electric bill to your purchase. Once payment is made, it will be applied to your Salt River account within a few minutes.

That’s all there is to it, easy as 1, 2, 3. “CheckOut,” a new and easy way to pay your electric bill where you shop!

Please note: a cash payment is required and a service fee of \$1.50 is charged to use this payment method.

Ways to make bill paying easier

Salt River Electric offers a number of ways to pay your bill remotely to reflect social distancing advocated by health officials because of COVID-19. You can pay from home! If you have questions about any of these options, please call us at (800) 221-7465.

1. Online at www.srelectric.com

E-check | Credit Card

2. Bank Draft

3. Mobile App

Salt River Electric at Play or App Store

4. Interactive Voice Response (IVR)

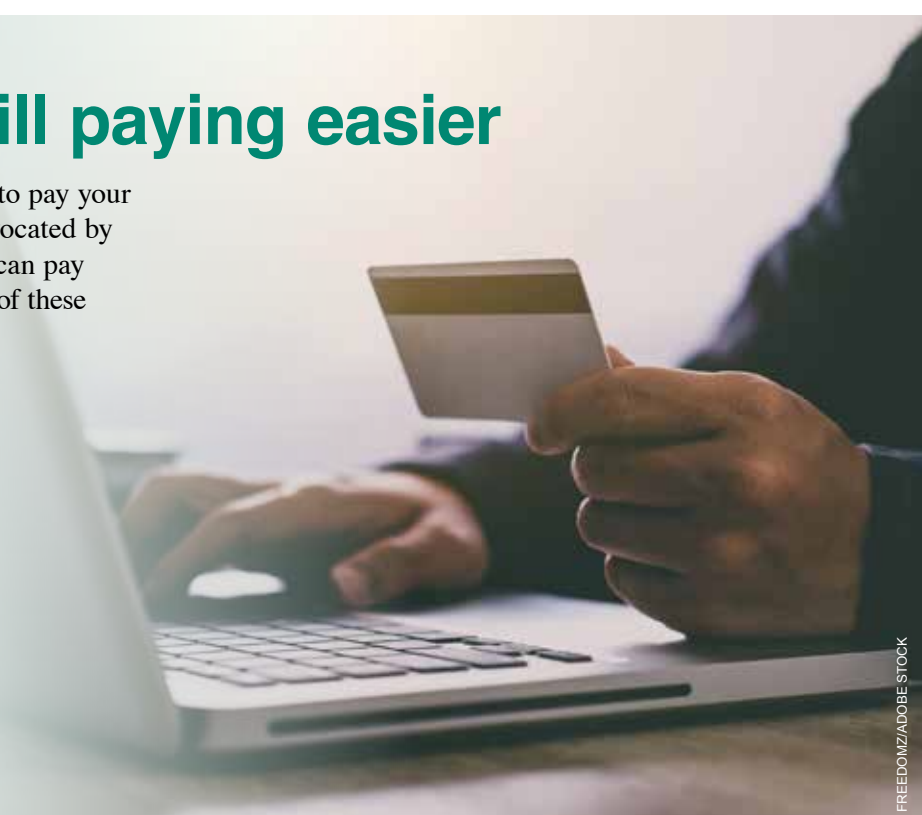
(800) 221-7465

5. Mail payments to:

Salt River Electric

PO Box 247

Florence, KY 41022



FREEDOMZ/ADOBE STOCK

Retired lineman gives back to community through his volunteer work

In October, retired Salt River Electric lineman Billy Marks received the Outstanding Dedication Award from the Nelson County 4-H organization for his volunteer work with youth in the community.

This award is given once a year to an outstanding volunteer who has gone above and beyond in their commitment to young people in the area.

Over the last several years, Billy's dedication to teaching electrical safety, mentoring youth in the community and being a volunteer for the 4-H organization has

inspired many young people. Some have even used the skills learned from him to direct them on a career path.

Danielle Hagler, Nelson County Extension Agent for 4-H Youth Development, explains why Billy was chosen to receive this year's award: "When he volunteers for 4-H or presents the Salt River safety program, he is always so patient with the kids—especially when they ask questions. He always puts things on a level they can understand and we appreciate that."

Hagler says, "We've had a six-year partnership with Billy and

our volunteers are like family and that's how we feel about him."

Marks is part of Salt River's safety team who travels throughout our service area educating students, civic organizations and first responders about electrical safety.

In the new year, due to his health, Marks will be stepping back from his volunteer duties. Marks loved his job as a lineman and his role as a community volunteer and mentor.

"I worked as a lineman for 37 years and have been retired for seven years. I can honestly say that I loved my job. People still



Retired Salt River lineman Billy Marks teaches local 4-H students about electricity. Photo: Danielle Hagler

call me at home when they have outages. Being a lineman is a 24/7, 365-day a year job! That training becomes a part of you—it never leaves you and I often find myself looking at electric lines and poles as I pass them while driving down the road—just out of habit—making sure everything is where it’s supposed to be.”

When asked about his award from 4-H and teaching others about electric safety, he says, “I am honored to receive this award. I love working with kids. I’ve always felt that volunteering was my way to give back. When we take the electric safety program to the schools, I always think that if just one child remembers one thing from the program, then I’ve done my job. I love it when I get thank you notes from students or see them out in the community later and they tell me they remembered something I said or that they’ve practiced an electric safety tip at home.”

DeWayne Thomas, Salt River’s safety and training coordinator, also works with Salt River’s electrical



Billy Marks, left, and Salt River’s Safety and Training Coordinator DeWayne Thomas talk to students at Foster Heights Elementary about electrical safety. Photo: Kay Lewis

safety program. He says, “Billy possesses a wealth of knowledge with well over 30 years of experience at Salt River Electric. His ability to teach others about our industry has made him a mentor to many and an invaluable resource to our safety programs. It has been a pleasure working with him through the years.”

Salt River Electric would like to thank Billy for his years of dedication to his job as a lineman and for his enthusiasm for his volunteer work while representing our co-op in the community.

We congratulate him on his well-deserved award from the 4-H organization and we wish him all the best.



Danielle Hagler, Nelson County Extension agent for 4-H Youth Development, gives Marks a congratulatory “fist bump” at the outdoor event where he was recognized for his work with 4-H. Photo: Kay Lewis



Marks talks with visitors about electric safety at a Kidsfest event in 2018. Photo: Kay Lewis

Watch for three signs of electrical overload

Circuit overload happens when appliances, TVs and other electronics draw more electricity than one circuit can handle.

The circuit can overload if you repeatedly operate too many devices on one circuit at the same time.

For example, overload could occur during a family get together if a slow cooker, a coffee maker and other appliances are plugged into the same power strip or outlet. Usually, this results in an automatic trip of the breaker. Over time, a circuit that continues to overload could result in a major safety problem.

There are three classic indicators of circuit overload:

1. Constant circuit breaking. If you continually find yourself resetting a tripped breaker, that indicates too many devices are on one circuit. Eventually, the circuit may stop tripping and result in an electrical fire.



TIM WEBB

2. Flickering lights. This issue could intensify as more appliances are plugged in. Eventually, the lights may go off completely.

3. Sight and sense warnings. These include warm outlets, smoky smells, darkened outlets,

buzzing noises or a tingling sensation from touching outlets, switches or appliances. If this happens, have a qualified electrician check if you should add circuits. The investment is small compared to the protection and safety of your family and home.

Use space heaters safely this winter

Nine members of a Muhlenberg County family died when the wall-mounted space heater they were using to stay warm on a frigid January night caused a fire.

Unfortunately, supplemental heating equipment like electronic or kerosene space heaters are the leading cause of home fires during the winter. Please use them with great care to avoid endangering the lives of those in your home.

To prevent overheating, the cords should be plugged directly into a wall outlet and not into an

extension cord. It's a good idea to have at least 3 feet of space clear, all around a space heater. Especially keep anything flammable outside this safety ring.

Also keep the heater out of high-traffic areas and on non-flammable floor surfaces—not on carpet and rugs.

When you leave the room or go to sleep, turn off the space heater. You'll be much safer piling on extra blankets, and you can avoid the extra cost of running the equipment.



GALAGANOVADOBESTOCK



A Message From Your Salt River Cooperative

How to safely volunteer during the pandemic

Nonprofits need help during this time when so many would-be volunteers are staying home instead of helping out.

If you have the volunteer spirit for the New Year, consider pitching in—safely. Here are a few ideas:

DONATE. Chances are, you're spending some of your at-home time organizing closets and cleaning the basement or garage. Sort through your junk before having it hauled away to discover hidden treasures that you don't want but that are in good shape and might be useful to others.

Most charities have bins for dropping off donations so you won't come into contact with other people.

ORGANIZE A FOOD DRIVE. Set up a plastic bin on your porch and encourage your neighbors to fill it with nonperishable grocery items like soup, pasta, peanut butter and cereal.

Every time it's full, haul it to a local food bank that has a contactless system for accepting donations.

VISIT A NEIGHBOR. If someone in your neighborhood is older or can't get to the store, ask for a shopping list the next time you're heading out for yourself. You can drop the items off on the neighbor's porch instead of handing them off in person.

TAKE PHONE CALLS. You can volunteer at a crisis helpline from the safety of your home—via telephone. Many crisis centers are conducting virtual training for volunteers and routing calls to their home or mobile numbers.



Stay warm; save energy

Everyone knows that turning the thermostat down a few degrees and throwing an extra blanket on the bed can stave off high winter energy bills. Here are a few simple but lesser-known energy-savers that you might consider trying this season:

Turn on the ceiling fan. If you switch the direction that the fan's blades rotate so they slowly spin clockwise, the room could feel a bit warmer. This creates an updraft and pushes warm air back into the room.

Retire your wood-burning fireplace. An open fire requires an open flue, and that can suck the warmth right out of your house. Consider replacing it with an electrical insert with realistic flames or a fun light show.

Open the drapes during the day; close them at night. The sun is nature's furnace, so let it shine in through south-facing windows during the day.

Cover windows with plastic film. It will stop much of the heat loss that can escape through uncovered windows.

Use a portable space heater in the room you use most often so you can turn the thermostat down a bit and avoid heating unused spaces.

Run exhaust fans sparingly. Turn on the bathroom fan before you take a shower and turn it off as soon as the steam clears so it won't suck warm air out of your home.

Pay it your way with Salt River Electric PrePay



Salt River Electric PrePay is a plan that allows you to pay for electricity before you use it. Salt River Electric PrePay gives you the ability to control your budget by depositing money into your account online, over the telephone, or in person at a Salt River Electric PrePay office.

To find out if Salt River Electric PrePay is right for you, call 502-348-3931 or visit www.srelectric.com.



502-348-3931 • www.srelectric.com

Members now have three ways to report a power outage

Salt River Electric members now have three options when reporting a power outage.

- You can use our **mobile app** on any smart phone or mobile device. Download the app at the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.
- You can also go to our website at **www.srelectric.com** and click on the outage tab. Be sure to set up a username and password in advance so you'll be ready if you lose power.
- You can call our 24-hour outage phone line **(800) 221-7465**.

Outages can be reported 24-hours a day, 365 days a year. Our line crews are on the ready to respond to outages as quickly and efficiently as possible.

When power outages occur, be sure to check your breakers first to be sure nothing has gone wrong inside your home. Have your account information handy when reporting an outage.

Our office will be closed for New Year's Day on January 1, 2021



LILY/ADOBE STOCK