



# SALT RIVER ELECTRIC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

A Publication For Members Of Salt River Electric Cooperative Corporation

Zachary Epperson, Editor



## Rediscovering nature at Taylorsville Lake State Park

# Salt River News

A monthly publication for the 54,283 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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## President & CEO

Tim Sharp

## On Our Cover

An increased emphasis on outdoor activities this past year has led people to rediscover the outdoors, with many doing so at Taylorsville Lake State Park in Spencer County. Photo: Kentucky State Parks



## Catch some rays with Cooperative Solar *Easy. Affordable. Renewable.*

Cooperative Solar from Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives is renewable energy that makes sense. Members of Salt River Electric can tap into renewable solar energy for their home or business without the headaches of installing and maintaining solar panels themselves.

Since it began generating electricity from the sun's rays in late 2017, Cooperative Solar has continuously exceeded expectations. It is one of Kentucky's largest sun-to-electricity farms.

Salt River joined with 16 other Kentucky Touchstone Energy Cooperatives to build the 60-acre solar farm that is

visible along Interstate 64 near Winchester. Sporting more than 32,000 photovoltaic panels, the farm produces enough sun-powered electricity to supply the power needs of about 1,000 Kentucky homes.

For a one-time payment of \$460, participating members receive a 25-year license for one of the panels. That means they will get credit on their monthly electric bill for the value of the energy generated by their share of the solar farm.

To sign up and learn more, go to [www.cooperativesolar.com](http://www.cooperativesolar.com). Check out the solar calculator to determine how many panels are needed for your home or business.



# Celebrating independence

## *Independence Day this year is loaded with promise*

As our state and nation emerge from pandemic restrictions, a celebration of freedom takes on added significance in 2021.

One of the iconic images of the July 4th holiday is Mount Rushmore, the faces of four presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln carved into stone, symbolizing American ideals of freedom and democracy.

Though we don't read as many quotes from Teddy Roosevelt compared to the other three patriots on the memorial, I'd like to share some fitting words from our 26th president.

Submitting a 1909 report to Congress by the Commission on Country Life, Roosevelt specifically pointed to cooperatives as key to the success of rural Americans.

"The Cooperative is the best plan of organization. Under this plan, every business is (governed by a board), every person has one vote and only one vote," Roosevelt wrote. "Everyone gets profits based on their use of the co-op. It develops individual responsibility and has a moral as well as a financial value."

More than a century later, Roosevelt's words still ring true here at Salt River Electric. We are led by, belong to and were built by members of the communities we serve. In other words, Salt River is



independent. Though we align with other cooperatives to efficiently serve you, we are not owned or controlled by any out-of-town interests. That's something to celebrate this Independence Day.

Twenty-four years after Roosevelt left office, his fifth-cousin, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, established the Rural Electrification Administration. When Congress authorized funding through the Rural Electrification Act, it enabled nonprofit electric cooperatives just like Salt River to secure low-cost loans to acquire the necessary facilities to bring electricity to farms and other rural areas.

"The forward march of electric cooperatives has profound significance in terms of our fight to

preserve the democracy," FDR said.

This patriotic message is not simply a footnote in the history books. To us, it's a rallying cry in our service to you, the consumer-members who own the cooperative, especially as co-ops face challenges in our ability to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

"Much has been given us, and much will rightfully be expected from us," Teddy Roosevelt said in his Inaugural Address in 1905. "We have duties to others and duties to ourselves; and we can shirk neither. We have become a great nation, forced by the fact of its greatness into relations with the other nations of the earth, and we must behave as befits a people with such responsibilities."



# A “Link To The Outdoors”

## *Taylorsville Lake State Park continues to provide visitors with connection to nature*

Summertime in Kentucky often involves a trip into the outdoors. Whatever a person’s need or interest, one spot in Salt River Electric’s area encompasses all there is to love about being outdoors in the summer. Situated in Spencer County and located between the state’s two most populous cities, Louisville and Lexington, Taylorsville Lake State Park has provided visitors an escape to the outdoors for years.

The park, compared to some others around the state, is relatively new. Built in 1983, it was established as a recreational hub for the then-newly formed Taylorsville Lake, which helped with area flooding problems. The park is home to a long list of recreational

activities, with some of the most popular including camping, boating, hiking and fishing. Anglers of all ages and abilities trek to the lake each year, making sure park officials constantly stay busy.

“We have almost one (fishing tournament) every day when we get to the busy season,” explains park manager Nicole Griffin.

Additionally, the park boasts a 24-mile trail system accessible to bikers, hikers, and even the horseback rider. There’s also opportunities for birding, orienteering and geocaching. As you can see, there isn’t a shortage of activities at Taylorsville Lake State Park.

“There’s something for everybody,” Griffin emphasizes

“I don’t feel like anyone would be left out if they visited the park. We can always find something for our visitors to do.”

Over the years, Griffin says not much has changed at the park, with officials working tirelessly to maintain the tranquil escape that visitors have come to love for nearly 40 years.

“I kind of feel like we’re one of the best kept secrets (in the state),” she says.

So, it’s no surprise that last year, with many people looking for safe activities and trips to enjoy in the shadow of COVID-19, natural resources like Taylorsville Lake State Park were, in a sense, rediscovered.







“This past year, we’ve seen people visiting who have never been interested in venturing outdoors before,” Griffin says. “(Staying at home) has almost pushed them to go out and take a look at nature. And they love it.”

The park’s ranger, Jody Mize, echoes the sentiment.

“From May of last year to this year, it hasn’t stopped,” Mize says. “We’ve seen droves of people.”

The sharp increase in the demand for outdoor activities has kept the park busy. Fishing and boating events are constant throughout the summer, the trails have seen increased foot traffic, and camping spots are nearly always reserved. And even when a few do open up, they’re about as hard to get as a Garth Brooks concert ticket.

But Griffin just smiles when talking about the park’s demand.



“What other kind of advertisement could you need?”

Griffin says that the job of park employees extends beyond offering new recreational opportunities; they’re also tasked with

helping visitors reconnect with nature.

“I feel like we can provide their link to the outdoors,” she says.

*Photos: Kentucky State Parks*



# Salt River Electric hosts drive-thru member appreciation day

For the second year in a row, Salt River Electric members were treated to a different format for the annual member appreciation day. With the world still battling COVID-19, co-op officials made the decision to once again hold a drive-thru style event for members at all four Salt River Electric locations across our service area.

“Member Appreciation Day is always a special time here at Salt River Electric,” says President and CEO Tim Sharp. “Getting to interact with our members has been greatly missed over the past year and a half.”

The change in format didn’t mean a change in goodies for members, though. Salt River members still received their bucket and

lightbulbs, as well as a chance to register for gift card giveaways.

“It’s been difficult not getting to see many of our members due to COVID-19,” Manager of Office Services Phyllis Oliver says. “But that’s what makes our Member Appreciation Day special—getting to see our neighbors and friends.”

The annual business meeting for members also remained in an alternate format this year, with board officials updating members on the state of the cooperative through a Facebook Live video, which can still be seen on our Facebook and YouTube channels.

During the meeting, the results of the cooperative’s elections were announced. Director Garry Mann of Spencer County was unseated in the election, with newcomer David Stevens defeating the incumbent 542 votes to 455. Stevens will now represent Spencer County members during a four-year term. Washington County Director Darrell Tingle, who ran unopposed, was re-elected to the board of directors.



PHOTOS: ZACH EPPERSON



## A Message From Salt River Electric

# Stay cool and safe in the pool

If your home has a swimming pool, it's probably your go-to solution to beat the heat.

Before taking that first plunge it is important to have swimming pool equipment, hot tubs, and spas inspected by a licensed electrician to ensure your facilities are grounded correctly and up to code.

If your plans include adding a swimming pool this year, please choose your site carefully, considering any power lines that may be overhead or underground. Call 811 before starting an in-ground installation.

There is a hidden danger called Electric Shock Drowning, or ESD, and it's entirely preventable. ESD happens when electricity from a pool or hot tub leaks electric current into the surrounding water.

If you feel a tingling sensation while in a pool, immediately stop swimming. Exit the water as quickly as possible but avoid touching metal ladders or rails, which increases the risk of shock.

If someone is experiencing an electrical shock in your pool, go to the circuit breaker and quickly turn the power off. Call 911 immediately.

Take extreme care when using electrical equipment near a swimming pool. Keep cords and equipment at least 5 feet from the water or use battery-operated appliances rather than plug-in machinery.

When you are wet or get out of the water, don't change the radio station or touch anything electrical until you are dry.

Here at Salt River Electric, we care about your safety. Stay safe and cool in the pool this summer!



# Keep cool this summer without blasting A/C

There's no need to lose your cool when you get your summer electric bill during the hottest days of the year.

Instead, try some alternatives to cranking up the air conditioning when the sun is blazing and it hasn't rained in days.



## 1 Install a dehumidifier.

If it feels as humid indoors as it does outdoors, there's too much water in the inside air. If you see water dripping out of the air conditioner or if you have to set it so low that you're freezing just to reach a comfortable humidity, the dehumidifier will help.

## 2 Cook outdoors or eat cold food.

Salads, raw veggies and fruit make great summer meals, and they don't require you to turn on the stove or oven, which can make the air in the kitchen too warm. Instead, gather the family for a barbecue and fire up the outdoor grill or serve a cold buffet on extra-hot evenings.

## 3 Hang bright curtains.

Red, orange and yellow tend to deflect heat, so for curtains, those colors are energy efficient. Closing the curtains or blinds during the day will keep sunrays from heating up the home you're trying to keep cool. Or install solar screens or a window tint to let in the light but keep out the heat.

## 4 Run fans.

Ceiling fans with blades that turn counterclockwise pull heat up out of the room while sending a soft breeze down into it, so anyone nearby will feel cooler. Portable electric fans placed in windows facing outward can suck heat out of a room on days when you want to give your A/C a break.

## 5 Run your dishwasher and clothes washer and dryer after dark.


Appliances that use heat to operate also throw some heat into the rooms where they are located. So run them during the coolest part of the day, after the sun goes down.



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Our offices will be closed Monday, July 5, in celebration of the July Fourth weekend.




## REPORT OUTAGES!

If your power ever goes out, Salt River Electric has 3 easy ways to report outages

1. By using our smart phone mobile app
2. By going to our website, [srelectric.com](http://srelectric.com), using your username and password
3. By calling our 24-hour outage phone line, 1-800-221-7465

Outages can be reported 24-hours a day, 365 days a year




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