

SALT RIVER NEWS

A monthly publication for the members of Salt River Electric | AUGUST 2023



www.srelectric.com



Message from the President

Powering a Friday night tradition

High school football in the state of Kentucky is more than a weekly trip to your team's stadium. It's a tradition that's rich with history in the commonwealth, and one that cooperatives like Salt River Electric are proud to support. Cooperatives power the "Friday night lights" in 89 counties across the state.

The action gets underway in just a couple of weeks on Friday nights for the Bardstown Tigers, Bethlehem Eagles, Bullitt Central Cougars, Nelson County Cardinals, North Bullitt Eagles, Spencer County Bears, Thomas Nelson Generals, Washington County Commanders and the Bullitt East Chargers, one of the defending state champions.

Salt River Electric supplies electricity to six local high school football facilities. We're proud to be the power source that makes "Friday night lights" possible for all the schools we serve.

Many associate Kentucky with basketball, and while we do love it, Kentuckians have been passionate for football for just as long, if not longer. The Kentucky Encyclopedia explains that the first college game occurred here in 1880, with high school football debuting in 1893.

By 1914, football was commonplace at



most large high schools. Smaller schools later followed suit, with the majority of Kentucky high schools fielding a team when the first state championship games were held in 1959.

Friday night football games wouldn't happen until the 1950s and 1960s for most schools in Salt River's service area. By then, most rural homes and businesses had access to electricity through their co-op membership. Schools were also powered by co-op electricity, but their football fields weren't equipped with lights. One by one, communities rallied around their hometown teams by raising funds to buy field lights that co-op

employees often would help install.

Co-op electricity lights up stadiums, locker rooms and parking lots. We power scoreboards and public address systems. We're also the power source for concession stands that crank out hot foods and cold beverages for fans.

The high school football season kicks off later this month. And like the teams we serve, Salt River Electric is conditioned and ready for a great season.



**SALT RIVER
ELECTRIC**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

*President and CEO
Tim Sharp*





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Announcements

Back to school dates

St. Joseph: August 1

Bethlehem: August 2

Bardstown Independent: August 3

Bullitt County Schools: August 9

Spencer County Schools: August 9

St. Gregory Elementary: August 9

Nelson County Schools: August 16

St. Dominic Elementary: August 16

Washington County Schools: August 24



KIATTI SAK/ADOBE STOCK

Salt River News

A monthly publication for the 55,859 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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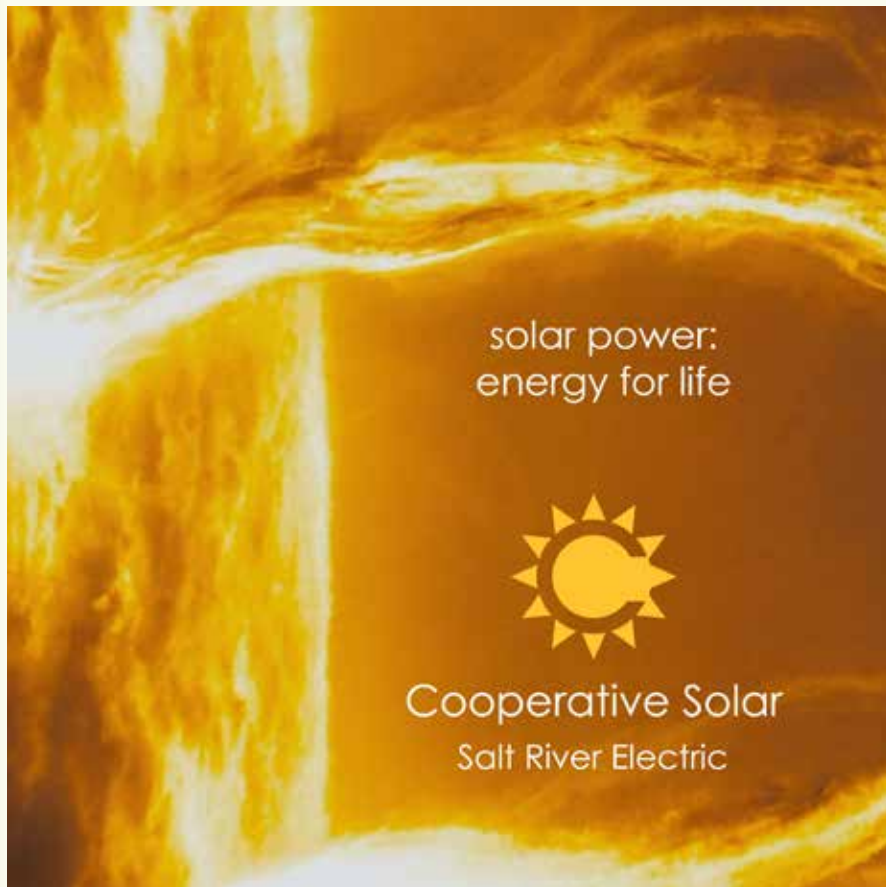


Salt River Electric



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RANDY BUCKNAM

2023 Salt River Electric scholarship winners

August is back to school time for many, including the recipients of 2023 scholarships from Salt River Electric.

During the 2023 annual business meeting in June, Salt River Electric President/CEO Tim Sharp announced the winners of this year's annual scholarship contest. The winners were as follows:

Bullitt County

Morgan Sexton - Bluegrass Community and Technical College (Diagnostic Medical Sonography)

Isaac Low - Southeast Lineman Training Center (Lineman)

Nelson County

Kaylin Stone - University of Kentucky (Nursing)

Braxton Hite - Campbellsville University, Harrodsburg (Welding)

Spencer County

Brice Roark - University of Kentucky (Marketing)

Faith Foltmann - Knight's School of Welding (Welding)

Washington County

Madison Taylor - Campbellsville University (Business Management)

Tanner Miles - Elizabethtown Community and Technical College (Industrial Maintenance)

The 2023 scholarship program introduced additional scholarships for local students. With many schools focusing more on workforce development and skill-based careers, Salt River's board

decided to add one additional scholarship to each district, to be awarded to a student pursuing a vocational pathway.

The cooperative also added a scholarship to honor former President/CEO Larry Hicks. Salt River's board had looked for ways to honor Hicks' contributions to the cooperative and communities, and felt that investing in the next generation was a fitting tribute to the modern-day father of Salt River Electric.

"Larry was always looking ahead," current board chair Linda West explains. "His background in accounting and finance were the building blocks of the Salt River we know today, so we feel it is important to invest in students who share those same thoughts and goals."

The scholarship was awarded to **Eli Dalton** of Taylorsville. Dalton, who will be a junior at Bellarmine University this year, is pursuing a major in accounting and finance.

While our 2023 scholarship season is now complete, it's never too early to start planning for next year. The 2024 Salt River Electric Scholarship Program will open around the beginning of next year, so make sure to check our website, social media channels and *Salt River News* as we get closer.



LEARNING STARTS NOW

Educate children on bus safety before they leave for school.

Keep these situations in mind when talking to your children about school bus and bus stop safety:

- Don't play near or around power lines or poles while waiting for the bus.
- Stay away from pad-mount transformers (those big green boxes) or other electrical equipment.
- Prepare your children for the different scenarios they could find themselves in.

Talking to your kids about scary situations can sometimes be difficult but having continuous and proactive conversations is a great way to help them remember when the time comes.



Making “cents” of where your dollar goes

We're fortunate here at Salt River Electric. Because of the cooperative business model, we don't have to answer to outside investors or shareholders when it comes to making decisions. Instead, we answer to you, our member-owners. That's one of the reasons cooperatives are so special: we listen to the people we serve each and every day.

Because of that, we believe it's important that you know how your dollars are spent when you pay your electric bill each month. The best way of doing that? By breaking down the

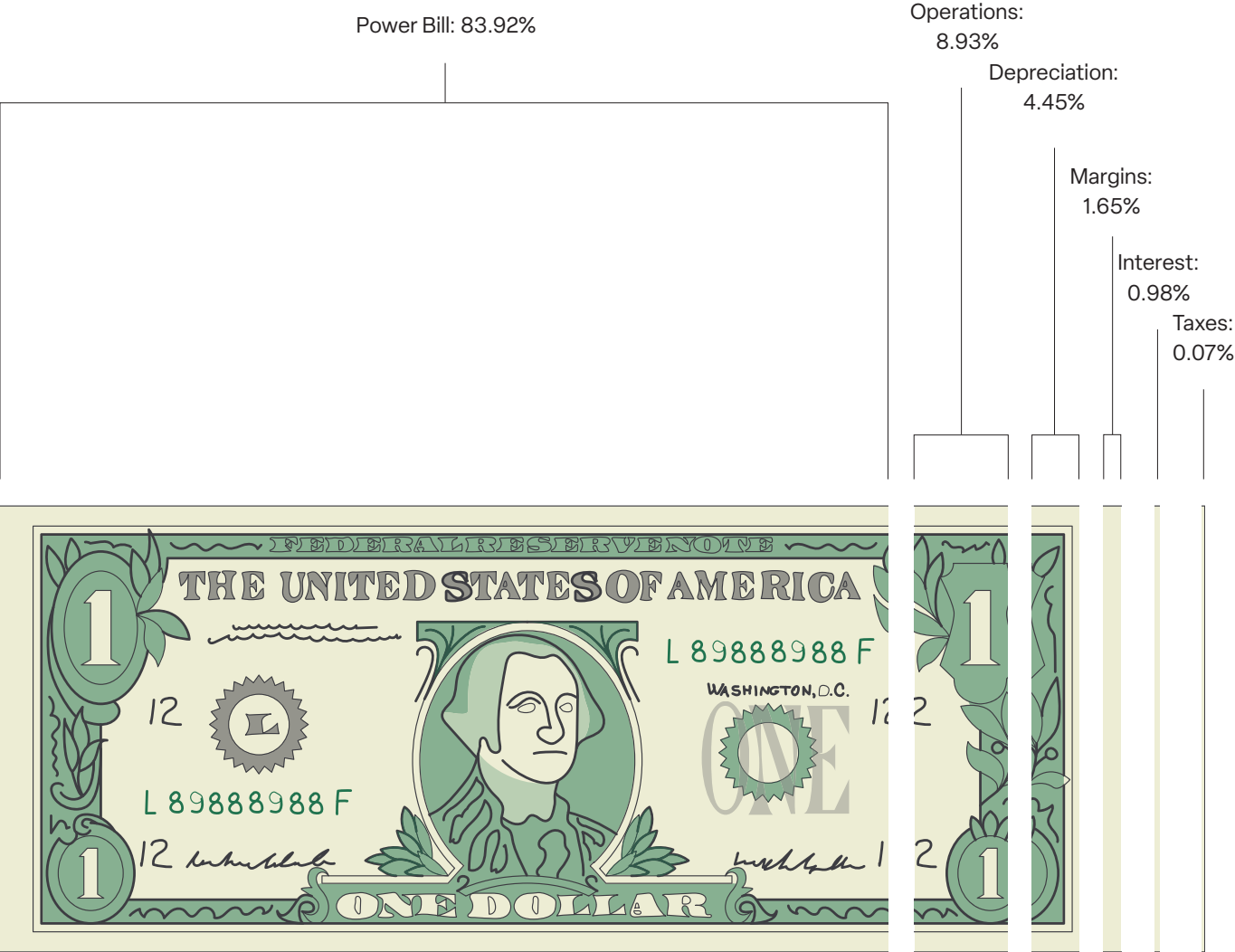
percentage of where each dollar from our members goes.

By far, our biggest expense as a cooperative is the cost of purchasing power, with nearly 84 cents out of every dollar going toward it. It's also the area where we, and other cooperatives, have seen the greatest upward pressures in recent years.

Our other costs help us effectively run the cooperative. As always, our top priority at Salt River Electric is to provide members with safe, reliable and affordable power. In order to achieve those goals, investments need to be made to

maintain the power grid, restore power during outages and offer a variety of member services. We also account for interest, taxes, depreciation, capital credits and the administrative costs of running a member-owned cooperative.

Every portion of every dollar spent is an investment in our members and is approved by the board of directors. At a time when it feels like we're all getting less for more, we want you to feel confident that Salt River Electric is working every day to make your dollar go further.



Cooperative tree trimming: how and why we do it

Electric cooperatives like Salt River were established to help serve members in the rural pockets of our service area that are sometimes hard to reach. Providing reliable service to members on the last mile is still one of our top priorities, and it is achieved through a number of programs, including our tree trimming and vegetation management program. By contracting with tree trimming crews, we can help identify and address potential threats posed by trees and vegetation near power lines.

Each month, we receive a large number of tree trimming requests—anywhere from 100 to 200. To manage these requests, our contract crews employ a prioritization system, ensuring that urgent cases receive prompt attention. Noncritical requests may take up to six months or longer to complete.

When members report tree limbs on the lines, it's important to determine which line is affected—the service line, which runs from the transformer to your house, or the primary line, which runs alongside the road. Details about the limb's position in relation to the line are essential for prioritizing the requests effectively. For example, we need to know whether it is lying on the line or growing over it, and whether it actively interferes with the member's electric service.

Like any other cooperative, Salt River follows specific industry guidelines when trimming trees. Limbs are trimmed on each side of the service wire, allowing it to swing freely without obstruction. The same goes for three-phase and single-phase lines, which also have industry-specific clearance standards. That's one of the reasons you may sometimes see a tree that's been pruned in an odd way. It may seem odd, but it was done that way to keep the tree alive while preventing potential hazards and ensuring system reliability.



Reliability and safety are top priorities at Salt River Electric, which is why we contract with tree trimming crews to identify and address potential threats posed by trees and vegetation. Photo: Phyllis Oliver

We're all about system reliability at Salt River, and our tree trimming practices reflect that. But that doesn't mean we'll cut down every healthy tree. We do understand that members might still be worried about future issues with a currently healthy tree. That's why we're willing to work with them, giving them the option to schedule the temporary removal of their service wire so that they can hire a professional tree service to safely remove the tree.

What about trees that are outside of our right-of-way maintenance? Well, if a tree is deemed dangerous or hazardous to service by our crews, it may be removed or reduced in height, with the owner's permission. Doing this will decrease the

chances of the tree potentially falling on the line, and it will minimize the risk of service disruption or damage.

Speaking of damage, let's talk about trees and storm restoration.

Salt River Electric always prioritizes the safe, rapid restoration of power after a storm. That means our crews are focused on restoring power, which can include removing fallen trees from power lines. Once they've done that, crews will move on to their next location to continue restoration efforts, with the debris left with the homeowner.

It's our goal to continue providing reliable service to our members by adhering to these guidelines and practices—all the way to the last mile.

Bank draft: a free and easy way to pay your bill!

In today's fast-paced world, convenience is a valuable thing. We're constantly on the move with what feels like a thousand things to get done. So, as technology continues to evolve, it's no surprise that even simple tasks such as paying monthly bills have become more streamlined. And many of our members have realized this over the past few months, opting instead to pay their bills through our bank draft payment program. And why wouldn't you? It's a fast, easy and hassle-free way of getting your monthly electric bill paid on time each month. Best of all, it's completely free.

Want an **EASY** and Worry Free way to pay your bill **ON TIME**? Sign up for Bank Draft **SIMPLY** by filling out and returning the form on the back!

Salt River Electric Bank Draft

In order to process your transaction, please provide the following information:

Salt River Electric Account Holder Name _____ Salt River Electric Account Number _____

Phone Number _____ Name of Bank, Loan or Credit Union _____

Bank Account Number _____ ☐ Checking ☐ Savings _____ Bank Routing Number _____

SALT RIVER ELECTRIC

Understanding bank draft

Bank draft is a payment method that allows members to have their monthly electric bill paid automatically from their bank account each month, similar to a car or house payment. This method eliminates the need for manual check writing, postage or online bill payments. But don't worry! Members will still receive a copy of their bill, letting them know how much their bill is before it is drafted out on the due date.

Benefits of bank draft

Convenience: Bank draft payments offer a hassle-free and convenient way to pay monthly electric bills. Members no longer need to remember due dates, write checks or log in to online payment portals. The process is automated, ensuring bills are paid on time without any effort on the member's part.

Time-saving: With bank draft payments, members can save valuable time that would otherwise be spent managing and paying bills themselves. This frees up time for more important tasks and reduces the stress associated with remembering and organizing bill payments.

Avoid late fees and penalties: Bank draft is always on time! By opting for

bank draft payments, members eliminate the risk of forgetting to pay their electric bills. Timely payments ensure that they won't incur any late fees or penalties.

Security and reliability: Bank draft payments are extremely secure and reliable. The transfer of funds occurs electronically, reducing the risk of lost or delayed checks in the mail. That's one thing we've heard from members who switch to bank draft: they no longer have to worry about whether their mailed check was delayed in getting to us. Bank draft is extremely quick.

Now, bank draft isn't for everyone. Those enrolled in prepay are unable to participate in bank draft. And some members just want to manually take care of their finances themselves. But for those who have found themselves worrying about lost or delayed payments, it can be a good option. Bank draft gives members peace of mind about paying their monthly bill.

So, what are you waiting for? Call us today at (502) 348-3931 or visit one of our four office locations to get signed up for bank draft.

Does this sound like you?

Bank draft is perfect for more people and situations than you think! Do any of these scenarios apply to you?

- You spend part of the year in another state, and have your mail forwarded to you
- You frequently forget to mail in your payments on your due date
- You worry that your mailed payment could be late or delayed getting to us
- You don't like having to pay third-party processing fees from AutoPay or at our kiosk

If any of these scenarios sound familiar, it's a good idea to call or visit us in person to get switched over to bank draft!



811 Day is August 11

August is not only a month of warm weather and outdoor activities, but also a time to raise awareness about the importance of safety. In particular, 811 Day, celebrated on August 11, serves as a reminder to prioritize safety when engaging in any digging or excavation projects. By following a few key precautions, you can prevent accidents, protect underground utilities and ensure the well-being of yourself and those around you.

- 1. Call 811 before you dig:** Before starting any digging project, whether it's installing a fence, planting trees or constructing a new structure, always call 8-1-1! This call will alert utility companies to mark the location of underground lines, such as gas, electric and water, to prevent accidental damage and potential hazards.
- 2. Respect the utility markings:** Once you've made the call, take note of the utility markings that have been made in your digging area. These color-coded markings indicate the type of underground lines present. It's crucial to respect and avoid digging within the marked areas to prevent service interruptions, personal injuries and costly repairs.
- 3. Dig safely and carefully:** When digging, always use proper tools and equipment.

By following these key precautions, you can safeguard yourself, protect underground utilities and prevent accidents and interruptions. Prioritize safety, be proactive and make that call to 811 before you dig.



OLIVIER LE MOAL/ADOBE STOCK

Hot days remind us to use energy wisely

The hottest days of summer remind us that poor energy habits can make our house uncomfortable.

It's never too late to make a few changes around the house to help keep things cool. A bonus: You could lower your energy bill during air conditioner season.

- Check for loose or leaky window panes, and notice if your home still has single-pane windows. They're typically energy inefficient, allowing cool air to escape from your home during the summer and hot air to escape in the winter. Restoring or replacing single-pane windows is an investment that will pay for itself in energy savings all year round—and keep your home more comfortable, too.
- If you're still using your old stash of incandescent lightbulbs in lamps and overhead fixtures, it's time to make the switch to LEDs, which are far more energy efficient than old-fashioned lightbulbs. One reason: Incandescents produce more heat than light. And that can compete with the job your air conditioning system is trying to do during the summer.
- When air conditioner filters get dirty, they get clogged, and the air can't flow freely through them. That forces your air conditioner to work harder. Replace your dirty air filters once a month during cooling season.
- Install a programmable thermostat, which automatically adjusts the temperature so you use less energy to cool your home when no one is there. The device can save you up to \$100 a year on cooling and heating bills. Move appliances and lamps away from your thermostat. Because they emit heat, they can trick your thermostat into thinking the house is warmer than it really is, making the unit work harder than it should.

Kentucky Living turns 75

Empowering co-op communities since 1948

All of us at Salt River Electric are proud to bring you this 75th anniversary issue of *Kentucky Living*.

At the heart of our service is the mission to improve the quality of life for the people and communities we serve. In the pages of *Kentucky Living*, we collaborate with our fellow electric cooperatives across the commonwealth to do just that.

When *Kentucky Living* debuted as *Kentucky Electric Co-op News* in 1948, most of the homes in our communities did not yet have electric service. The magazine not only chronicled the incredible progress of those early members Salt River, it also served to connect and inform, sharing experiences, knowledge and our common purpose.

At its core, *Kentucky Living* embodies the very essence of electric cooperatives—empowering co-op members. By delivering thought-provoking articles, timely updates and valuable resources, the magazine helps our members stay informed, engaged and connected. It serves as a platform for sharing success stories, innovative solutions and community initiatives, showcasing how we can achieve great things together. Whether it's highlighting energy saving tips, featuring local businesses or promoting cooperative principles, *Kentucky Living* fosters a sense of belonging and collective responsibility.

As a cooperative that belongs to the

members we serve, Salt River Electric has a duty to keep you informed and advocate for your interests. That's why in addition to the local events, attractions and travel tips that make *Kentucky Living* so enjoyable, we also keep you updated on current events and the policies and regulations that affect our ability to provide you safe, reliable and efficient electric service.

As technology evolves and communication channels expand, *Kentucky Living* remains a steadfast source of unity, resilience and progress and empowers our members to actively participate in shaping our communities. It's not just any magazine, but a living testament to our cooperative values and our unwavering dedication to improve the lives of those we serve.

As you enjoy this special commemorative issue with photos and stories from the last 75 years, we also encourage you to think about what

legacy this generation will leave behind for Salt River Electric members in the next 25, 50 or 75 years.

As we are reminded of how far we've come, we are also inspired to continue pioneering initiatives that benefit our communities. *Kentucky Living* serves as a bridge between our past, present and future, preserving our history while propelling us toward a brighter tomorrow.



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and 1–4 p.m.
(502) 477-5133

Washington County

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and 1–4 p.m.
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