



Editor, Patsy Whitehead, CCC

Featured above: : Nolin RECC Customer Service Representative  
Marty Hepner, 5 years of service

*News you can use*

## Meaningful memories

### A season for reflection

**W**hen I was growing up, I remember counting the days until Christmas. Our childhood holiday memories are strong because the time spent with family and friends during these special days often define who we are.

Our faith heightens our sense of spiritual purpose, while the coming new year once again brings the promise of a fresh, new start. The time off from work and school gives us a chance to reflect upon the direction of our lives.

December gives us a chance to take a break from day-to-day pursuits.

As a not-for-profit, member-owned business, Nolin RECC never thinks of our job as just delivering electricity.

We're locally based and committed to the communities we serve by providing college scholarships, and supporting an annual Honor Flight for veterans of World War II and the Korean War.

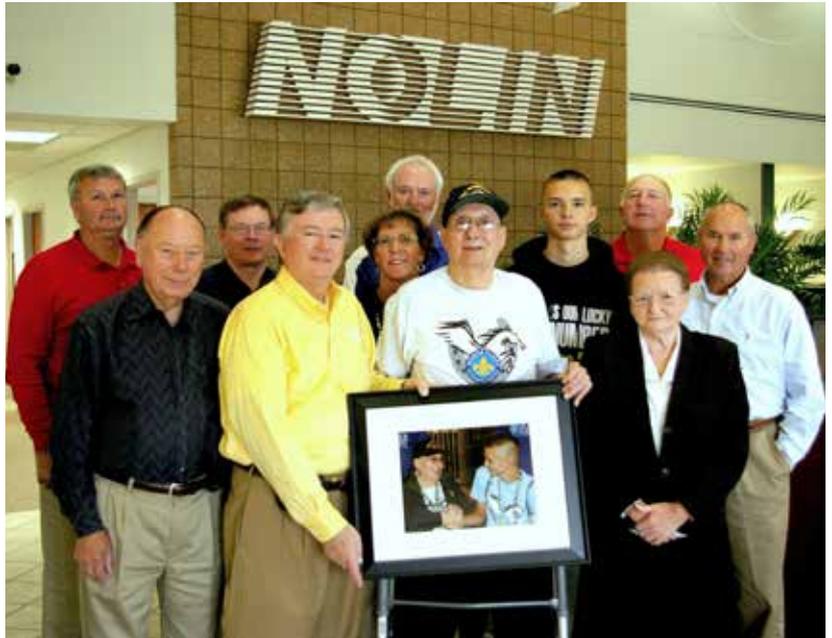
In addition to providing affordable, reliable power, we provide members discounts at thousands of businesses through the Nolin RECC Co-op Connections Card.

The card is free to all our members, and already offers significant discounts at thousands of national and state businesses, from pharmacies to auto parts stores to hotels.

The card is an advantage of Nolin RECC's membership in Touchstone Energy, an alliance of more than 750 member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives in 46 states dedicated to serving our communities with integrity, accountability, innovation, and commitment.

And the Nolin RECC Co-op Connections Card program has gotten even better.

Through the card, we are now offering savings on



Nolin RECC CEO Mickey Miller presents World War II veteran Harry Hudgin (center) a framed photo from his 2013 Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. Hudgin's grandson, Travis Wilson (standing at right, behind), went with him on the trip. The Nolin RECC board stands behind Harry and his wife, Rozetta.

prescription medicines, lab and imaging services, chiropractic, dental, vision, and hearing care.

Many insurance plans do not include provisions for these five health benefit areas. You can save 10 percent to 60 percent

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# Heat Pump Thermostats

## Pay yourself each month through smart thermostat use

**M**anaging your home's thermostat efficiently can pay great dividends, and doesn't take much effort. In fact, if you have a thermostat for a heat pump system, one of the best things you can do to save is really simple: leave your thermostat alone.

Many homeowners waste energy and money by pushing the thermostat up or down every time they feel a bit cold or slightly stuffy. For a heat pump, this wastes energy and drives up your bill.

The best thing to do is to set the thermostat at a moderate temperature at the beginning of each season and leave it there. The EPA recommends about 68 degrees in winter.

Many people incorrectly believe that turning the heat pump thermostat down 10 degrees at night during the winter will save. But you're actually doing just the opposite. Here's why.

When you return the thermostat to the regular temperature the next morning, your heat pump automatically switches to more costly auxiliary/strip heat to get back to the regular temperature as quickly as possible.

Moving a heat pump thermostat up more than 2 degrees will kick on the system's expensive auxiliary heat.

In general, the average heat pump costs about 40 cents an hour to operate. But auxiliary heat costs \$1 or more an hour. During an entire month, that adds up.

This winter, pay yourself. Manage the thermostat wisely and you'll manage your bill.



### Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

Your heat pump can use 10 percent to 25 percent more energy if it's not properly maintained, which includes regularly checking and replacing the air filter when it's dirty to keep parts from working too hard or even becoming damaged. Keep brush and plants tidy around the outdoor unit, and dust the return registers inside. For more details on heat pump maintenance, visit [EnergySavers.gov](http://EnergySavers.gov).

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

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## Meaningful memories *(continued from 30A)*

on eyeglasses, contact lenses, and eye exams. You can receive 20 percent to 40 percent discounts on a range of dental care services or get 30 percent off chiropractic treatments. There are also 35 percent discounts on hearing aid prices.

We call this discount Healthy Savings. It's available at no cost to our members through the Co-op Connections Card. For more info, visit [www.healthysavings.coop](http://www.healthysavings.coop).

Nolin RECC can also help you to use electricity as efficiently as possible through our Button-Up program.

There are countless other ways you can conserve power and save money at your home or business, not only during the holidays, but throughout the year.

Our SimpleSaver program provides bill credits if you voluntarily join to help us reduce electric demand on our system. Call (800) 305-5493 or go to [www.simplesaver.coop](http://www.simplesaver.coop) to learn more.

For information about energy-efficient improvements, visit [www.nolinrecc.com](http://www.nolinrecc.com), where you'll find free "how-to" bulletins.

As you and your loved ones prepare to celebrate in the coming weeks, let me say again how pleased we at Nolin RECC are to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We pray you have a safe and joyous holiday season.

# Shop and save with your Co-op Connections Card

Finish your holiday shopping online and save money with your Nolin RECC Co-op Connections Card. Take advantage of these offerings or visit [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop) for a complete listing of local and national retailers. You can get discounts by providing your card to these recently added local businesses:

## Elizabethtown

A-1 Vacuum Sales & Service  
 A Shaggy Dog  
 Anew Back Yard  
 Atchers Body Works  
 Auto Sound of Elizabethtown  
 Awards Center  
 Boot Country of Elizabethtown  
 Chuck's Mattress Outlet  
 Conner & Akers Auto Store  
 DJ Spanky's Music Service

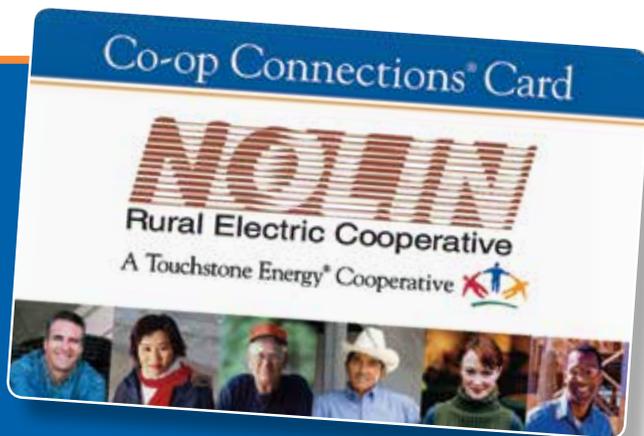
## Genos Formal Affair Hobby Station

Kustom Auto Restylers  
 Sheroan Tae Kwon Do Academy LLC  
 The Granite Centre

## Radcliff

Pawn Masters

For more information, go to  
[www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop)



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 to the national discounts!  
 Now save away,  
 save away!  
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With Co-op Connections, show the ONE card that does it all! Another member benefit brought to you by Nolin RECC.

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## Earn Cash Back Rewards.

Saving energy just got more rewarding.

Sign up for the **SimpleSaver** program and pocket the rewards.

With **SimpleSaver**, you will receive annual bill credits, increase energy reliability in your community and help keep energy costs low. **SimpleSaver** is easy, free and it pays you cash back.

**SimpleSaver**...saving energy just got more rewarding.

Nolin RECC's  
**SimpleSaver**  
1-800-305-5493 • [www.simplesaver.coop](http://www.simplesaver.coop)



## Capital credits claimed by estates

Members of Nolin RECC earn capital credits based on the amount of electricity consumed. The co-op, unfortunately, has not been in a financial position to pay capital credits to members for the past several years; however, funds can be released to executors or administrators of co-op members' estates at a discounted rate. The

executor or administrator of a member's estate can fill out an application for capital credits. Along with the application, Nolin requires a copy of the death certificate, and a copy of the court order appointment as executor or administrator. The deceased member's account must be closed and all final bills paid before the funds for payment paperwork is

processed. Applications for capital credits are approved by the Nolin RECC board of directors. After approval, a check for accrued capital credits is mailed to the executor or administrator of the estate. For more information, please contact Nolin's Membership Records Coordinator Sheree Raub at (270) 765-6153.

# Say a little prayer for those who keep the lights on

**W**inter storms sometimes knock down electric lines. The resulting power failures from unexpected severe weather are frustrating—especially for those whose homes temporarily lack heat or lights.

During this holiday season, it is a particularly good time to think about Nolin RECC's line technicians, who climb utility poles and handle high-voltage lines in frigid temperatures to make sure the power stays on or restore service if there is a weather emergency.

Nolin RECC's line technicians risk their lives every day, keeping the lights on so that the rest of us can enjoy the holidays with friends and family. Even in warm months and calm weather, the jobs of those in the field can turn deadly in an instant.

Our line technicians are heroes. Should your electricity go out temporarily, say a little prayer for the Nolin RECC employees who are out in the freezing wind, climbing icy poles on your behalf.

And this holiday season, please be careful yourself. Nolin RECC cares about you.



## Merry Christmas

*May your holidays be merry and bright!*

**NOLIN**  
Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Cooperative 



# Don't Generate Danger

When it comes to generator safety,  
your safest call is to a licensed electrician

**W**hen the power goes out, a portable generator can make life a lot easier. But if it's used improperly, that generator can make life a lot more dangerous!

Always have a licensed electrician hook up the standby electrical system and portable generator to your home. Your electrician can determine the proper size generator required to meet your individual needs.

Keep these tips in mind when you're using a portable generator:

- Plug individual appliances into the generator using heavy-duty, outdoor-rated cords with a wire gauge adequate for the appliance load.
- Observe the generator manufacturer's instructions for safe operation.
- Do not plug the generator into a wall outlet.
- Never use a generator indoors or in attached garages.
- Only operate the generator outdoors in a well-ventilated dry area, away from air intakes to the home, and protected from direct exposure to rain and snow, preferably under a canopy, open shed, or carport.
- The generator cannot be connected directly to the housing wiring. Regardless of generator size, you must contact a licensed electrician to install a generator transfer switch and to hook up the generator. This will protect your cooperative's workers from being shocked by power from your generator while doing repairs to the line.
- Never store gasoline in the home. Gasoline, kerosene, and other flammable liquids should be stored outside of living areas in properly labeled, nonglass safety containers. They also should not be stored in an area near a fuel-burning appliance: the vapor from gasoline can travel invisibly along the ground and be ignited by pilot lights or arcs caused by activating electric switches.

For code compliance on portable generators, contact Nolin RECC at **(270) 765-6153**, e-mail [comments@nolinrecc.com](mailto:comments@nolinrecc.com), or visit our Web site at [www.nolinrecc.com](http://www.nolinrecc.com).

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# Keep the holidays bright—and safe

Festive parties, dazzling lights, and decorations are beautiful holiday traditions. But some of the things that make the holidays so special can also be hazards that jeopardize the safety of you and your families.

Don't let electrical accidents darken your holiday celebrations. Look for and eliminate potential dangers posed by holiday lighting, decorating, and entertaining.

Safe Electricity, a national public awareness organization that has partnered with Nolin RECC, offers these tips to help keep homes festive and safe year-round:

## COOKING:

- Inspect all small appliances and electric cords to make sure they are in good repair and read operating instructions before use.
- When purchasing new kitchen appliances, look for UL-listed appliances with automatic shut-off features.
- Never plug more than one high-wattage appliance into a single outlet.
- Never stand in or near water when using electrical appliances, and make sure outlets near sinks are equipped with properly tested ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs).
- Stay focused and attentive to baking, brewing, and simmering foods.
- Keep young children away from cooking areas and closely supervise older children helping with baking and cooking.
- Keep cooking areas clean and free of grease.
- Make sure a working fire extinguisher is on hand and know how to operate it.

## DECORATING:

- Place fresh-cut trees away from heat sources, such as heat registers, fireplaces, radiators, and televisions. Water the tree frequently.
- Use only lights that have been safety tested and have the UL label.
- Before use, check each light string for broken sockets, frayed cords, or faulty plugs. Replace damaged strings. Always unplug light strings while replacing bulbs.
- Don't string together more than three standard-size sets of lights.
- Make sure extension cords are in good condition and are UL-approved cords rated to carry the electrical load you will connect to them.



## We've Got Your \$75 Number! \$75

WIN \$75 Worth of FREE Electricity

*Nolin News* features a contest called "We've Got Your Number." Hidden inside this issue are 2 randomly selected member account numbers. If you spot your account number, contact the Member Services Department at 765-6153, and **win a \$75 CREDIT on your electric bill.** You must identify your number and call by the 15th day of the month's issue containing your number. Account numbers could be anywhere in your *Nolin News*!

## New Member Credits

All members signing up for new service with Nolin receive a short survey. Members who return the completed survey to Nolin are automatically eligible to win a \$20 credit on their electric bill. Each month, one name is drawn and a lucky Nolin member receives a bill credit on their next statement. Congratulations to our latest winner, **Norma Falu, of Radcliff.**

## Online payments

Access your Nolin RECC account through our Web site at **www.nolinrecc.com**. Click on "YourAccount" to check your consumption history and make payments by debit card, Visa, or MasterCard. To apply for budget billing and automatic draft online, click on "Residential Bill Payment."

## Christmas Light Displays

Be sure to travel through Freeman Lake Park in Elizabethtown to experience more than 100 lighted Christmas displays. Don't miss the Nolin RECC bucket truck and elf at the entrance of the park. Also visit Christmas at Creekfront in Hodgenville (Hwy. 210 just before you reach the square). Nolin RECC will have a lighted display along with many other Christmas scenes.



## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The Nolin RECC offices will be closed December 24-25 and January 1, 2014. In case of emergency, call (270) 769-6396. Long distance only, call (800) 572-1147

### HOW TO REACH NOLIN RECC

#### ELIZABETHTOWN OFFICE

411 Ring Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701-6767  
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Mon-Fri • (270) 765-6153

#### RADCLIFF OFFICE

101 West Lincoln Trail Blvd., Radcliff, KY 40160  
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Mon-Fri • (270) 351-2199  
(Office closed from 12:30-1:30 daily)

**TOLL-FREE BUSINESS CALLS — 1-888-637-4247**

**EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER — (270) 769-6396**

**EMERGENCY TOLL-FREE CALLS — 1-800-572-1147**

Web site: [www.nolinrecc.com](http://www.nolinrecc.com)

e-mail: [comments@nolinrecc.com](mailto:comments@nolinrecc.com)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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