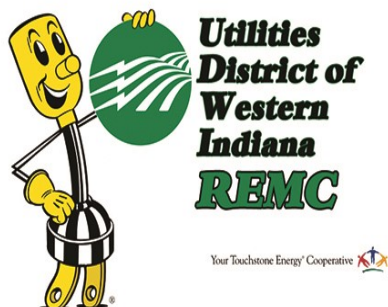


News from Your Co-op

January 2021



UDWI REMC & Smithville forge partnership to accelerate fiber construction

The Utilities District of Western Indiana REMC and Smithville, Indiana's largest privately-held telecom, announced a unique limited partnership that is expected to accelerate high-speed fiber construction in a cost-effective manner. The partnership is expected to mutually benefit customers and communities in their overlapping service areas.

Smithville's engineering teams are completing plans for the initial Monroe County project area, which will include using some aerial infrastructure assets owned by UDWI. Joint planning will continue throughout the two-year timeframe as new construction areas are added within the initial Monroe County project.

The two companies will first leverage this new partnership to bring high-speed fiber-optic connectivity to more than 800 homes in the rural area east of Stanford in Monroe County. The two-year project will begin its initial phase in early 2021 and focus on building residential fiber connectivity to about 280 homes. Additional areas of the project are expected to start construction later in 2021. The companies set a schedule that forecasts the completion of the full project of more than 800 homes by the end of 2022.

The organizations are presently considering additional joint projects that utilize UDWI's electric infrastructure and Smithville's telecommunications expertise to construct high-speed fiber infrastructure in places where their service areas overlap. This initial project will serve as the foundation for additional projects in the future.

Smithville and UDWI already both provide service in areas near the \$100 million WestGate@Crane Technology Park and other portions of south-central Indiana, where additional joint projects may also materialize. However, the companies will complete their initial joint project before actively pursuing additional opportunities.

For more information, visit Smithville.com and click on 'Check Availability' to see if your home is included in the initial project plan.

This strategic partnership allows UDWI to continue our present focus on both capital improvements and increased vegetation management to improve service reliability for our members. UDWI looks forward to getting this first project underway.

Did you know?

UDWI offers members the capability to request tree trimming service online!

To submit a request, visit

<https://www.udwiremc.com/form/tree-trimming-service-request>



The UDWI REMC office lobby is closed until further notice. This measure will help to protect both our members and employees. The drive-thru window remains open for business. For updates and more info, please visit our website and Facebook pages regularly.

THE ELECTRICITY PUZZLE

Electricity is produced at a generating station by using coal, natural gas, nuclear, solar, water or wind.

1

The power is transmitted along high-voltage transmission lines that stretch across rural areas.

2

When electricity reaches a substation, it is converted to lower voltage.

3

Smaller distribution lines from the substation provide power to your home, farm and businesses.

4

January 29th—National Puzzle Day—recognizes the benefits of working puzzles on our brains. Studies have found that working puzzles helps us use both sides of our brain, improving memory, cognitive function and problem-solving skills. Playing games or working puzzles helps advance our social skills, too. Pick out your favorite and have a play date or family game night!

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." - C.S. Lewis

Qualifications for UDWI REMC Board of Directors

To be eligible to become a director of the REMC, a person must meet the following qualifications:

1. Must be a member of the cooperative;
2. Must be a bona fide resident in the district which he/she is to represent;
3. Must not be in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy or supplies to the REMC, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to members of the cooperative;
4. Must not be a close relative of an incumbent director or an employee of the REMC.

Three candidates will be elected at the 2021 annual meeting. **Districts 5, 7 and 8 are up for election.** Candidates will be elected to serve a three-year term.

Interested candidates must contact the UDWI office to receive a candidate packet.

Completed packets must be turned in on or before **Wednesday, January 20, 2021.**

Winter Energy Tips

As the winter weather rolls in, there are ways to get your home prepared to save energy in the coldest months of the year. The list below is a way to get started in getting your home ready for the next few months.

1. Switch your ceiling fan's blade rotation.
2. Take advantage of your fireplace.
3. Weather-proof your windows.
4. Turn the thermostat down when guests are over.
5. Open blinds during the day to let the sunshine warm up your home.
6. Invest in a Smart Thermostat.
7. Unplug any unnecessary electronics when going out of town.
8. Use the smallest appliance to get the job done.
9. Replace older lightbulbs with a LED version.

As members of our local communities, we look for ways that can contribute and help our communities grow. The UDWI REMC Community Fund offers members an avenue by which they can really make a difference! The program works by rounding electric bills up to the next whole dollar amount. For example, if a bill totals \$37.11, the amount due will be \$38.00. Call our office today to enroll in this beneficial program!

UDWI then awards the amount collected to our local communities. Non-profit businesses and organizations are encouraged to apply for the next round of Community Fund grants. Applications are being accepted now through March 10, 2021.



Meter testing continues...

UDWI REMC meter technicians will be performing routine meter tests in our entire service territory over the next few years.

Each employee will be driving a white utility van with our logo placard. Be sure to identify these items before approaching any vehicle that may be in your area. Report suspicious behavior to your local law enforcement office.

"Like" us on Facebook to stay up to date on current testing locations.

