



January 2026

# FALL RIVER FLASHES

Committed to safely and economically provide reliable energy and other services which bring value to its membership.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS! 2026 ENERGY EXPO DATE SET

Mark your calendars for Fall River Electric's Energy Expo and Annual Meeting of members scheduled for Saturday, June 13. This year's event will be held at Teton High School in Driggs. Fall River will elect three directors to the Board of Directors. The election will be conducted in conjunction with the annual business meeting. Look for details on how you can become a candidate in next month's *FLASHES* newsletter.



## OFFICES CLOSED ON FEBRUARY 16

Fall River Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Monday, February 16, for the Presidents' Day federal holiday, also known as Lincoln's and Washington's Birthday in some states. This holiday commemorates George Washington, the first President of the United States, and later added Abraham Lincoln in celebration of his February birthday. In case of an unexpected power outage during the holiday, our crews will be on standby to respond as quickly and safely as possible. If you experience an outage on a holiday or any time, call 800.632.5726.



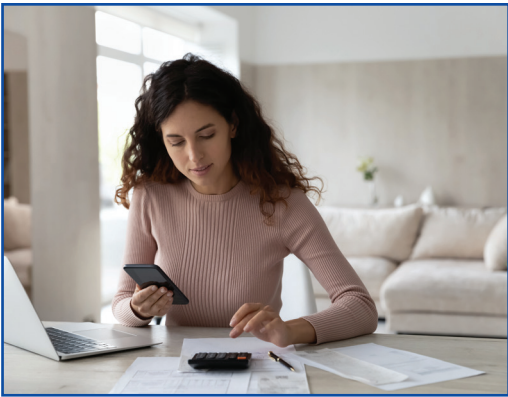
## Auto Pay Change Coming January 2026

Fall River Electric owner-members that utilize Auto Pay using a credit or debit card will need to re-register their card information on January 26, 2026, when the Co-op switches software system vendors. For security reasons, federal law prohibits the automatic transfer of credit card or debit card numbers to a new system. It must be done manually by the cardholder.

This does not impact members that use a bank account for Auto Pay.

On January 26, owner-members should use this link to update their credit card or debit card for Auto Pay: [fallriverelectric.com/smarthub](https://fallriverelectric.com/smarthub).

Watch for more info coming via a postcard in your mailbox this month.



## Applications Are Open For Higher Education Scholarships Available From Fall River Electric



Scholarship applications are available at Fall River's website, [fallriverelectric.com/scholarships](https://fallriverelectric.com/scholarships). The deadline to apply is March 20, so hurry! Scholarships will be awarded at Fall River Electric's annual business meeting on June 13 in Driggs and are funded by unclaimed Patronage Capital.

Students who have previously received a scholarship from Fall River Electric are reminded that they need to re-apply each year to continue to receive scholarship assistance.

Thousands of dollars in scholarships will be made available to current high school seniors who are planning to attend college or receive vocational training this coming fall. Each scholarship is valued at \$2,400, paid over four years, as part of Fall River Electric's college and continuing education scholarship program. All applicants (students) must have parents or guardians who are owner-members (customers) of Fall River Electric.

Fall River Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors is also offering a \$2,400 yearly scholarship to a member or a child of a member that is interested in a utility career as a lineman. This scholarship will be awarded to ONE person who plans to enroll in a lineman college. The applicant or their parents or guardians must be members of Fall River Electric to qualify. The lineman scholarship information can also be found on Fall River Electric's website.

## Need Help Paying Your Energy Bill?

The official first day of winter was December 21 and during this season, winter weather usually means higher monthly energy bills, but help is available. The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is accepting applications. To inquire, call the office in your state:

**IDAHO – 208.522.5391**  
**MONTANA – 406.587.4486**  
**WYOMING – 800.246.4221**







800-632-5726  
208-652-7431

**ASHTON**  
1150 North 3400 East  
Ashton, ID 83420

**DRIGGS**  
1605 N Highway 33  
Driggs, ID 83422

**WEST YELLOWSTONE**  
436 Madison Ave  
West Yellowstone, MT 59758

**All Our Offices Are Open**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00am - 4:30pm

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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District 1  
Rexburg/Rigby  
President

**Travis Markegard**  
District 2  
West Victor



**Georg Behrens**  
District 3  
East Victor

**Anna Lindstedt**  
District 4  
East Driggs



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West Driggs/Tetonia

**Dede Draper**  
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District 9, West Yellowstone

**Bryan Case**  
Fall River Electric  
CEO/General Manager



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Want your Fall River *FLASHES* faster? Click [www.fallriverelectric.com](http://www.fallriverelectric.com) and then select the tab "My Cooperative" followed by the drop-down menu "Fall River Electric Newsletter."

Keep up to date, including on power outage information, by "liking" Fall River Electric on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/fallriverrec](http://www.facebook.com/fallriverrec).

## Does Your Home Leak Heat?



Does your electrically heated home leak heat due to outdated windows, doors, water heater, appliances, or insulation? If so, those leaks are costing you money! Would you like to know exactly where those leaks are coming from and how you can fix them?

Winter is the perfect time of year to schedule a home energy audit with Fall River Electric's certified energy audit professional. They will check your home for leaks around doors and windows, check for proper insulation levels, and evaluate your appliances and water heater. The goal of the energy audit is to help make your home warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer—plus, make it more energy efficient, while saving you money. And the best part about a home energy audit? Fall River Electric will help you pay for the audit! This \$385 value is yours for just \$100. Fall River pays the difference!

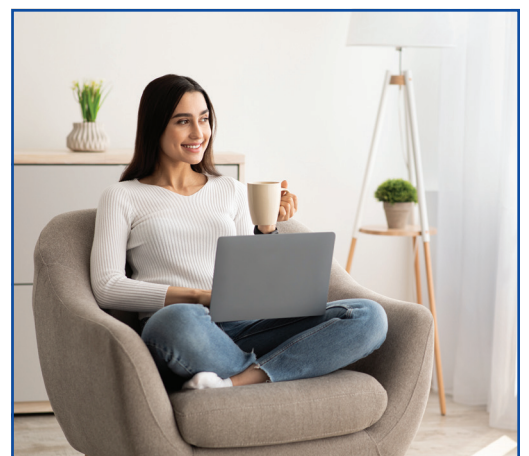
To schedule a home energy audit, call Fall River Electric's energy conservation specialist at 800.632.5726.

## Take Safety Home: Distractions Can Be Dangerous

Are you suffering from digital detours? You just sat down with your laptop or smartphone ready to tackle some work you have been promising yourself to do, and BAM, the phone rings, the inbox dings, or social media is calling.

How can you strengthen your attention and stay on task? Here are some tips to help:

- **Digital Detox:** Periodically disconnect from your digital devices to recharge and refocus. A short break in the day or a digital-free weekend might be in order.
- **Notification Management:** Turn off non-essential notifications.
- **Create a Technology-Free Zone:** Designate certain areas of home, like your bedroom, as a tech-free room. This is a fantastic way to guarantee several hours of rest.



- **Prioritize Face-to-Face Interaction:** Spend quality time with family or friends without the distraction of screens.

Regain control over your life and prioritize your well-being by establishing meaningful digital consumption.

## Tis The Season For Roof Avalanches



Once the snow piles high, snow sliding off a roof is a very dangerous risk. Hundreds of pounds of falling snow and ice can cause severe injuries and even death. Additionally, a roof avalanche can cause major property damage to vehicles, gutters, decks, landscaping, and even roof structural damage, too.

Stay aware and prepared this winter season. Here are some suggestions to prevent roof avalanches:

- **Install Snow Guards:** These devices break up large snow masses or hold them until

they melt, allowing only small amounts to fall safely.

- **Use a Roof Rake:** Safely removes snow from the roof's edge while you remain on the ground, reducing load and impact.
- **Professional Removal:** Hire fully insured, experienced experts for large or dangerous snow loads.
- **Stay Away:** Avoid walking or parking directly under snow-loaded eaves.

One foot of snow on your roof can create up to 21 pounds per square foot. That weight can increase to more than 100 pounds per square foot with five or more feet of snow. Take the time to walk the perimeter of your home, just in case there's an 8-foot snow drift that's not visible from your driveway. Make it a habit to monitor your roof perimeter, noting any snow build up spots, after every major snowfall. It will be cold, and it won't be fun but it will be far less painful than a roof collapse or an ice dam that causes thousands of dollars in damage to your home and your valuables or worse yet, injures a member of your family.