

# FALL RIVER FLASHES

NOVEMBER 2025

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



## EXTENDED OFFICE CLOSURE FOR THANKS- GIVING HOLIDAY

Fall River Electric will be closed Thursday AND Friday, November 27 and 28, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. The extra day will allow our staff to spend a little more time with their families.

In case of an unexpected power outage during this holiday weekend, our crews will be on stand-by to respond as quickly and safely as possible. If you experience an outage on the weekend or any time after normal business hours, call 1.800.632.5726.



## Members To Receive Over \$1.7M Cash Back In December

More than \$1.7 million dollars in patronage capital funds is set to be distributed to owner-members who were members of the Cooperative in 2007. This is one of the most significant benefits of being an owner-member (customer) of Fall River Electric, which operates as a non-profit utility.

Patronage capital is a program that pays customers cash back over time. Whenever Fall River Electric collects more money than it needs for operating expenses, those extra revenues, which are called "margins," become patronage capital and are disbursed to the owner-members of the Co-op on an approximate twenty-year cycle. Unlike for-profit utilities that pay profits to shareholders, Fall River Electric belongs to you and the communities it serves and uses patronage capital to invest in the Cooperative's infrastructure.



The amount of patronage capital paid out to you this year is based on how much electricity you used during 2007. The Cooperative's board retires, or pays out, patronage capital only when the financial condition of the Co-op allows.

Learn more about patronage capital by clicking this link [fallriverelectric.com/patronage-capital](http://fallriverelectric.com/patronage-capital). Please carefully review the letter that will be enclosed with your check in December. If you have further questions, please call a friendly Member Service representative during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, at 800.632.5726.



## Helping Hands Is Ready For The Holidays & Beyond

Fall River Helping Hands was established in February 2010 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit for the purpose of helping Fall River Electric members (customers) who are struggling with unforeseen hardships. Helping Hands funds can be used to pay for electricity or propane, can supply firewood, and even pay for energy audits to identify home improvements that will result in energy savings. Funds can also be used to replace windows, doors, add insulation, and improve weather stripping at member residences. Each month a volunteer board meets and reviews applications for assistance.

Owner-members like you contribute to Helping Hands by rounding up your electric bill to the next dollar, by making regular fixed donations, or by donating your Patronage Capital. Helping Hands also received corporate donations like the one this year from CoBank. Last year, Helping Hands provided assistance to thirty-two Idaho families and



CoBank representative Cary Fry presented a \$15,000 donation to Fall River Helping Hands assisted by members of the Helping Hands board. The donation was part of CoBank's "Sharing Success" program. CoBank is a financial partner of Fall River Electric Cooperative.

thirty-five in Montana. Since its inception in 2010, Helping Hands has received more than \$1 million in tax deductible donations.

With the holiday season approaching, please consider a tax-free donation to Helping Hands to help families in need!



[www.fallriverelectric.com](http://www.fallriverelectric.com)



## Fall River Cares

As we have shared with members over the years, one of our Seven Cooperative Principles is "Concern for Community." Anchored by this guiding principle, Fall River continues to support organizations and events in our local communities.

This year Fall River Electric has supported the chambers of commerce in Teton Valley, Island Park, and West Yellowstone; donated to the 4-H groups and county fairs in both Fremont and Teton counties; and

has been a contributing sponsor for several area events, including the Yellowstone Rod Run, Tin Cup Challenge in Teton Valley, and the Downtown Driggs Association. Your Co-op has also supported the Museum of the Henry's Fork, the West Yellowstone Foundation, and Friends of Harriman State Park.

To review the Co-op's core principles, visit [fallriverelectric.com/seven-cooperative-principles](http://fallriverelectric.com/seven-cooperative-principles).

## Stuff The Trailer For Our Neighbors In Need

Last holiday season, Fall River owner-members and others in the communities contributed nearly 2,500 pounds of non-perishable food, as well as cash donations during our "Stuff the Trailer" event. This year, our trailer will be at the following locations:

- **Broulim's Fresh Foods**, Rexburg, Friday, December 12 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Food Roundup Supermarket AND the Market Place**, West Yellowstone, Thursday, December 18 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Broulim's Fresh Foods**, Driggs, Friday, December 19 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Donated food will be delivered in January to the West Yellowstone Food Bank, Rexburg Food Pantry, and the Teton Valley Food Pantry to provide food for families in need. If you cannot meet the trailer in town on those dates, you can also drop off food items to any of our Fall River Electric offices in Ashton, Driggs, or West Yellowstone. Let's set a new record for donations this year and, more importantly, let's set a goal to feed more families than ever before!

## Did You Know?

Here are ten little known facts about Fall River Electric Cooperative, the co-op you own:

- Growth in **new services** continues at a rapid pace with 423 new services installed through September.
- Cost of **wholesale power** purchased this year is 15% higher than 2024.
- Fall River Electric's **equity ratio is at 55%**, the highest ever.
- Three largest causes of power outages so far this year are:
  1. Wholesale power supplier failures
  2. Storms
  3. Trees on power lines
- Member Services receives **3,500 to 4,000 phone calls** per month.
- One of the **most popular pages** on the Co-op's website is the Henry's Fork webcams at [fallriverelectric.com/river-web-cam](http://fallriverelectric.com/river-web-cam).
- Over **5,500 members of the Co-op** contribute monthly to Helping Hands.
- **All profit generated by Fall River Propane are contributed** to electric members.
- **Our team blocked over 46,000 spam/virus** emails received in September 2025 alone.
- **Fall River's five hydros generate** more than 37 million kilowatt hours annually—enough to power nearly 2,500 homes year round.



RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

*Where Service Matters.*

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**



Husk Crowther  
District 1  
Rexburg/Rigby  
Board President



Travis Markegard  
District 2  
West Victor



Georg Behrens  
District 3  
East Victor



Anna Lindstedt  
District 4  
East Driggs



Brent Robson  
District 5  
West Driggs/Tetonia



Dede Draper  
District 6  
Ashton



Jodi Stiehl  
District 7  
South Island Park  
Vice President



Jeff Keay  
District 8  
North Island Park  
Secretary/Treasurer



Doug Schmier  
District 9  
West Yellowstone



Bryan Case  
Fall River Electric  
CEO/General Manager

## Take Safety Home: Fire Prevention



Home fire season is upon us. Do you have a home fire escape plan? Draw a floor plan of your home showing where all doors and windows are. Visit each room with each member of your family and identify two ways out. Then, pick a meeting place outside your home where all members of the family know where to meet in case of a fire.

Check your smoke alarms to make sure each one is operating and the batteries are fresh. Then, take a weekend during daylight hours and practice your home fire drill. Let's all be safe during the holidays and long winter months ahead!

## Auto Pay Changes Coming In January

As was announced in our September *FLASHES* newsletter, Fall River Electric Cooperative is changing the software used to manage member accounts, including the functions owner-members use to pay their bills online.

On January 26, 2026, if you are currently registered for Auto Pay with a debit or credit card, you will be required to re-register for Auto Pay using our new SmartHub payment system. Due to federal regulations, debit and credit card information can NOT be automatically transferred during a payment system conversion to protect customer data and ensure compliance.

Members who use a bank account (ACH) are NOT affected by this software change. This only applies to members who use a debit or credit card to make automatic monthly payments.



[www.fallriverelectric.com](http://www.fallriverelectric.com)

## NEED HELP PAYING YOUR WINTER ENERGY BILL?

Winter weather is fast approaching and with it comes higher energy bills. The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has begun processing applications for 2025-2026 heating season.

To receive further information, call these numbers for the state you reside in:

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

## Local Students Attend Youth Rally

Five students from our local area schools recently returned from attending Youth Rally in western Idaho. Trey Behrens, Mike-Il Crowther, returning Youth Rally Director Avery Washburn, Rebekah Bowden, and Taylor Neppl joined nearly one hundred other youth from Alaska, Oregon, Washington, Montana, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming for a free five-day fun filled event making friends, developing leadership skills, and learning.

These students had the opportunity to learn about government/civic roles as they visited the Idaho State Capital, gained leadership experience to prepare for college and careers, and were inspired by guest speaker Ben Kjar, a wrestler born with Crouzon syndrome. They also learned about consumer-owned utilities and the electric industry from representatives of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and the National Rural Utilities Finance Corporation (CFC). Students got the chance to build relationships with their peers from across the region, while enjoying fun activities, including a day at the water park, dancing, movie night, games, and more. Each student also received a \$500 continuing education scholarship for participating.

Applications for high school sophomores and juniors whose parents or guardians are members of Fall River Electric will open next spring. Check [www.fallriverelectric.com/youth-rally](http://www.fallriverelectric.com/youth-rally) for details.



Fall River's *FLASHES* newsletter is printed on recycled paper and is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. Products certified by FSC directly support responsible forest management.

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).

