



# FALL RIVER FLASHES

October 2020

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

## VOTE ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 3



Because this year is a presidential election year and due to COVID-19 pandemic concerns, even more owner-members of Fall River Electric are expressing interest in voting. Election day is November 3; however, you can avoid the potential lines and safe distancing requirements by voting absentee. To request an absentee ballot, call your County Clerk's office. You may also be able to request an absentee ballot by visiting your county's website. Polls on election day will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in Idaho, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. in Montana, and 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. in Wyoming. And remember, daylight savings time ends the Sunday prior to election day. Please plan to vote!

## NEED HELP PAYING WINTER ENERGY BILLS?

Winter weather is approaching and with it comes higher energy bills. The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) continues to process applications for assistance. Participants should apply via regular mail, email, phone, or in-person.

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

**IDAHO** – 208.522.5391

**MONTANA** – 406.587.4486

**WYOMING** – 800.246.4221

## What Does National Co-Op Month Mean For You?

October is National Co-op Month and electric cooperatives across the country are highlighting the many ways we "Power On." Who would have fathomed in March that the COVID-19 virus would amount to a test for the communities we serve and our owner-members? The changing circumstances due to the ongoing pandemic have created both challenges and opportunities. Over the past several months, we have all been challenged to operate differently, and Fall River Electric has stepped up to help our owner-members who have lost jobs and income.



As an essential service, and to ensure reliability of your power supply, we modified our operations to safeguard both our owner-members and our staff. Most of our employees began working remotely. Although we have now returned to our offices, we continue to limit office visits and encourage our line crews to allow for safe separation. In addition, we conducted our annual meeting virtually, held board meetings virtually, and even conducted our West Yellowstone Member Appreciation

event curbside. With the health and safety of everyone in mind, these measures were the prudent course of action for the times.

We can all play a part in making our interconnected world safer.



Do Your Part.  
**#BeCyberSmart.**



October is National  
Cybersecurity Awareness Month.  
Visit [staysafeonline.org](https://staysafeonline.org) for cybersecurity tips.

For owner-members impacted by COVID-19 who needed help with their electric bills, we waived late fees, deferred disconnects, worked with those hardest hit to make special payment arrangements, and encouraged members to utilize our Helping Hands program.

We remind you of these efforts not to boast about Fall River Electric Cooperative, but to explain how much we care about the communities and members we serve—because we live here, too! Being part of a cooperative means being a part of something special. Not only are Fall River Electric's rates some of the lowest in the nation but you, as an owner-member of this Co-op, have the ability to elect other owner-members to the board that governs this business. Your elected board is focused on the Co-op's future and the products and services that will be of benefit to members now, as well as years to come. We are your Cooperative! We are your Trusted Energy Partner. #PowerOn

## Sealing Your Home Saves \$\$\$



Air leaks are one of the greatest sources of energy loss in a home. One of the quickest energy and money-saving tasks you can do before cold weather sets in is caulk, seal, and weatherstrip all seams, cracks, and openings to the outside. By sealing air leaks, you could save 10% to 20% on your wintertime heating costs! Here are some places to look for leaks:

- Exterior doors & windows
- Where plumbing & electrical wiring enters your home
- Open fireplace dampers
- Electrical sockets & light switches

And should you experience a power outage during cold weather, you can monitor our Facebook page for updates on causes and estimated times when power will be back on. Like [facebook.com/FallRiverREC](https://facebook.com/FallRiverREC) to stay up to date.



*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

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Want your *Fall River FLASHES* faster? Click the Quick Link *Newsletter* on our website's home page at [www.fallriverelectric.com](http://www.fallriverelectric.com).

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).

## Fall River Propane Celebrates 20 Years

Jessica Jenkins of Auburn, Wyoming, was the winner of Fall River Propane's social media promotion to celebrate twenty years of business. The Facebook promotion invited folks to like and share Fall River Propane's page for an entry into the contest. The prize was a Lennox propane gas fireplace insert. Jenkins' name was drawn at random from more than 2,500 entries.



Pictured: Fall River Propane General Manager JT Hill (left) with Jessica Jenkins and her husband, Blake.

Current propane prices for residential and commercial delivery are the lowest they have been in years. Visit [www.fallriverpropane.com](http://www.fallriverpropane.com) to order, or call to switch to Fall River Propane at 800.632.5726.

## Member Appreciation a Resounding Success

Fall River Electric held a Member Appreciation event in West Yellowstone on Friday, September 11, with nearly 300 members in attendance, breaking the previous attendance record by 25 percent!

"I expected a smaller turnout due to COVID-19 and just having a curbside event with no food, but members began showing up early and were lined up on the street for two and a half blocks at times," says CEO and General Manager Bryan Case.

All of the gifts and energy conservation kits were given away and more have been ordered. It was a beautiful late-summer day; thanks to those that were able to attend.



## October Is National Cybersecurity Month



Cybersecurity Awareness Month aims to shed light on security vulnerabilities, while offering guidance surrounding simple security measures to limit threats to your devices at home and at work.

With more people spending time at home due to COVID-19, now more than ever, connected devices are a part of how we communicate, do business, schoolwork, and more. Data collected from these devices may include sensitive information about a person or business, which can be exploited by bad actors for criminal gain. Visit [www.stay-safeonline.org](http://www.stay-safeonline.org) for more information or follow the hashtag #BeCyberSmart on social media.

## Thanks To Schmier & Robson



At a recent Fall River Electric board meeting, past board President Doug Schmier and previous Vice President Brent Robson received congratulatory awards. Schmier was the Co-op's twentieth board president and had served since 2016. Robson was the twenty-first vice president and had served for the past two years. Both men continue to serve on the board as elected members.