



dmremc.com

**CONTACT US**

Toll Free: 800-762-7362

**OFFICE HOURS**

7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday-Friday

**STREET ADDRESS**

12628 E. 75 N, Loogootee, Indiana 47553

**MAILING ADDRESS**

P.O. Box 430, Loogootee, IN 47553

**SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS**

To report an outage or emergency, call 812-295-4200 or 800-762-7362 day or night.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Brandt Schuckman**, President

**Joshua Dove**, Vice President

**John Edwards**, Secretary

**Terry Chapman**, Treasurer

**August Bauer**

**Amy Burris**

**Travis Summers**

**MONTHLY MEETING**

Tuesday, June 23 at 7 p.m.

Daviness-Martin County REMC office

**BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS**

SmartHub – online bill payment system

Budget billing

Auto bank draft

Drive-thru window

Night depository

Credit card payment (VISA,

Discover and MasterCard accepted)

Pay-by-phone: 855-951-3760

**MISSION STATEMENT**

*“Our mission is to provide safe, reliable electricity and quality services for our members at a reasonable cost.”*

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@davinessmartincountyremc

# Why vegetation management matters

Here in our community, we take pride in the natural beauty that surrounds us — the shade on a summer afternoon and the colors that mark the changing seasons.

At the same time, we share another responsibility — one that’s just as essential to our daily lives. The responsibility to keep the lights on, to power our homes and businesses, to make sure that when you flip a switch, the energy you depend on is there.

That’s why Daviness-Martin County REMC works every day to strike a careful balance between preserving the beauty we cherish and delivering the reliable electricity you expect.

One of the most important ways we do that is through regular tree trimming.

It may not always be obvious, but keeping lines clear of overgrown vegetation helps prevent power outages. When severe weather rolls in, strong winds, heavy ice, or sudden storms can bring down branches and, with them, power lines and poles. In fact, nearly half of all power outages can be traced to trees and vegetation contacting electrical infrastructure.

That’s why you may notice crews from Daviness-Martin County REMC or our trusted contractors working in neighborhoods throughout the year. Our crews are highly trained and certified, following the latest industry standards to ensure the job is done

safely and effectively. Their work might seem routine, but it’s anything but — it’s a proactive step that helps prevent problems before they start.

And it’s not just good practice — it’s required. Electric utilities across the country are obligated to manage vegetation near power lines. Scheduled trimming helps remove dead or weakened limbs and keeps fast-growing trees from becoming hazards. It’s about staying one step ahead.

We’re also using new tools and technologies to do this work smarter. Through drone inspections, for example, we can monitor power lines and surrounding vegetation more efficiently, reducing costs while improving accuracy. These small but powerful tools allow us to identify potential risks early and respond quickly.

But beyond reliability and efficiency, there’s another reason this work matters: safety.

Electricity is a powerful force, and when trees grow too close to power lines, that power can become dangerous. Branches that touch or come close to lines can carry electrical current. Children climbing trees in their own yards may not realize the risk. And during storms, fallen trees can create hazardous conditions not only for families but also for lineworkers restoring service.

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There's also a financial reality we can't ignore. Preventative maintenance — like tree trimming — is far more cost-effective than repairing widespread damage after an outage. Left unchecked, overgrown vegetation can lead to more frequent disruptions and higher costs for everyone. A thoughtful, strategic vegetation management program helps keep those costs down for our members.

You can help, too. When planting new trees, consider their mature height and distance from nearby power lines. Trees that grow up to 40 feet should be planted at least 25 feet away from overhead lines. Larger trees — those that exceed 40 feet — should be planted at least 50 feet away. If you're landscaping near pad-mounted transformers, keep shrubs at least 10 feet from the front and 4 feet from the sides to allow safe access.

Call 811 before digging. It's a simple step that can prevent serious accidents.

At the end of the day, we all want the same thing: a community that's safe, resilient, and beautiful. At Daviess-Martin County REMC, we're proud to be part of that effort.

**RYAN DANT**  
Chief Executive Officer



Pictured left to right: Gage Petty, Caleb Bouchie, Dennis Wilson, Jarrett Arvin, and Mitchell Werner.



## Washington High School students explore careers at Daviess-Martin County REMC

Daviess-Martin County REMC had the pleasure of hosting Caleb Bouchie and Gage Petty from Washington High School this month. These future linemen stopped by the garage to learn what it takes to join

the trade. They had the opportunity to get an up-close look at daily operations at Daviess-Martin County REMC while working alongside our incredible crew.



The Daviess-Martin County REMC office will be closed on Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day.

Happy 4th of July!

Your chance to win **\$50**

In each issue of the magazine, Daviess-Martin County REMC asks our readers three questions. The answers can be found in the articles of Indiana Connection. Clip the coupon below along the dotted line. Fill it out and return it to our office with your monthly payment before the 20th of the month. *(Delinquent members are not eligible.)*

Each month, a winner will be drawn from the entries submitted. Make sure you bring or mail in your most recent coupon as the coupons are dated monthly. Copies will not be accepted, and coupons are not available at the office! Winners will be notified and their names will be published in a subsequent issue of Indiana Connection.

**APRIL WINNER:**

Thomas Schultheis

For bills dated the 5th of the month and paid by the 20th.

1. Two students from \_\_\_\_\_ High School recently explored careers at Daviess-Martin County REMC.
2. The Daviess-Martin County REMC office will be closed on July \_\_\_\_.
3. Operation Round Up awarded \$\_\_\_\_\_ to local projects and organizations in 2025.

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ACCOUNT NO.:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NO.:** \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to round my monthly bill up to the next whole dollar for Operation Round Up.
- I am already signed up for Operation Round Up.

# Employee anniversaries

We're proud to recognize the following employees for their years of service at Daviess-Martin County REMC. Their dedication is essential to delivering reliable, high-quality service to our members.



**NATHAN KELLAMS**  
June 5 | 3 Years



**CEO RYAN DANT**  
June 19 | 9 Years



**JORDAN KAISER**  
June 27 | 4 Years

## Welcome to the team!

Please join us in welcoming Jake Foster and Brandi Wagler to the Daviess-Martin County REMC team.

Foster joins us as our new communications specialist. He was raised in Pike and Daviess County and brings award-winning media experience to the team. He currently lives in Winslow with his wife, Amber, their dog, Luna, and their two cats, Peaches and Ash. When Foster isn't at the office or out in the community, he's usually in the backyard by the grill, out fishing, or watching a classic sci-fi flick.



**Jake Foster**

Wagler joins us as our new general operations coordinator. She was born in Provo, Utah, but moved to Indiana as a child, where she was raised on a farm in Needmore. A graduate of Vincennes University, she now lives in Loogootee with her family. Wagler enjoys cooking, traveling, and outdoor activities such as camping and kayaking.



**Brandi Wagler**

# Daviess-Martin County REMC highlights storm recovery, community impact at 2026 Annual Meeting

The 2026 Daviess-Martin County REMC Annual Meeting was held virtually on Thursday, April 23, at 5 p.m.

Chairperson Brandt Schuckman called on Director Josh Dove to give the invocation. Director August Bauer then led the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance, after which Schuckman called the meeting to order.

Following Secretary John Edwards' report, Daviess-Martin County REMC CEO Ryan Dant reviewed the past year's cooperative activities.

"The year 2025 was unlike any other for our cooperative," Dant said. "It challenged us, it strengthened us, and it ultimately reminded us of the extraordinary spirit that defines Daviess-Martin County REMC."

Dant addressed the tornado damage sustained at the facility in March 2025, which caused minor damage to the office building and destroyed the warehouse. Additionally, more than 1,200 members experienced outages during the storms.

During this time, Daviess-Martin County REMC received assistance from Southeastern REMC, Hendricks Power Cooperative, and WIN Energy.

"Thanks to this remarkable teamwork, power was fully restored to every member within five days," Dant said, adding that a new warehouse is nearing completion and will strengthen operations well into the future.

Despite these challenges, Daviess-Martin County REMC reached an important milestone in 2025 of 495,000 hours without a lost-time accident. Dant also reported that the cooperative returned \$750,000 in capital credits to members who received electric service from 1997 to 1999.

Operation Round Up awarded \$23,440 to local projects and organizations, bringing total giving since 2004 to more than \$654,000.

"These contributions are made possible through the generosity of our members who choose to round up their bill each month," Dant said, thanking members and volunteer board members for their stewardship.

In 2025, the cooperative's commitment to youth remained a key focus. Throughout the year, hundreds of students learned about electrical safety through tabletop demonstrations conducted by lineworkers.

Daviess-Martin County REMC also sponsored eight sixth-grade students and one high school junior to participate in the Indiana Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

"Investing in young people is an investment in our cooperative's future," Dant added.

He concluded his address by noting that the cooperative's strength comes from the people, partners, and members it proudly serves.

Following the address, cooperative attorney Chris Goffinet delivered the legal report and oversaw the 2026 director election.

Two seats were open in 2026: District 3, covering Washington and Veale Townships, and District 6, covering Halbert, Lost River, Mitcheltree, and Rutherford Townships.

Both seats were retained by the incumbents, Brandt Schuckman (District 3) and August Bauer (District 6).

