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*mikeb@bentonrea.org*

## Is Your Power Out?

If your electricity is out for more than a few minutes...

Check your breaker box to see if a circuit breaker has tripped.

Then, check to see if your neighbors are without power.

Report Benton REA outages by calling 800-221-6987 or via the SmartHub app.

## Prosser Office Open During 7th Street Road Construction

Starting June 11, road construction along 7<sup>th</sup> Street will temporarily eliminate the parking spots in front of the Benton REA Prosser office. However, the office will be open during normal business hours (8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday) during construction.

Sheridan Avenue will remain open during the 80-day construction project and members may park in the first five parking spots next to the Prosser office building along Sheridan

Avenue.

If access to the front door is difficult, members may access the building through the gate on Sheridan Avenue and through the back door of the building.

There are many ways to pay your bill instead of in person at Benton REA's two offices. These include:

- Online at BentonREA.org
- Through the SmartHub app on your mobile device
- By Phone, call 844-255-3685

• By Mail, just place your payment and payment stub in the envelope you receive with your monthly paper bill and mail it to Benton REA

• By Automatic Deduction, a no-hassle bill payment charged to your credit or debit card

And if you simply wish to speak to someone at Benton REA, you can call us at 800-221-6987 or 509-786-2913.

Thank you for your patience while the 7<sup>th</sup> Street construction is in progress. ■

## Benton REA Welcomes New West Richland Meter Reader

This month, West Richland residents will welcome a new meter reader and say goodbye to a long-time friend.

C. K. "Kaye" Johnson has read Benton REA's electric meters in West Richland since her daughter was just one year old. Tiffney is now 27 years old. In recent years, Tiffney and her brother, Brad, have read meters with their mother as employees of her business, Utility Reading Services.

Kaye has become a member of the West Richland community, although she does not live there. Her hometown is Prineville, Oregon. Kaye and her employees have read meters for several utilities in the Northwest,



but not all at the same time.

"The people are friendly and willing to help," she said of Benton REA's West Richland members, "They always have a smile on their face and a 'howdy'".

During retirement, Kaye will not miss the rain, wind and snow she worked through to accurately and timely read electric meters. Yet, she will long for all

**SEE METER READER ON PAGE 2**

# Meter Reader

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the friends she's made, as well as all the special little dogs.

"I've enjoyed working for the Benton REA members very much. I appreciate the opportunity to have done that."

Kaye's last day reading meters was May 20, 2018. For the past two months, she trained Kevin Kellogg of K&L Enterprises to take over. He began his solo route on June 1.

Kevin is an Eastern Washington native. He grew up in Walla Walla, has lived in West Richland and currently resides in Pasco. Reading meters will be a new venture for him after more than 31 years as a

general contractor.

He's looking forward to spending more time outdoors and getting away from desk work.

"I'm doing a whole new thing," he said. "Kaye has been doing this for almost 30 years." Although he is new to the job, he had a great teacher and is happy to be serving the members of Benton REA.

Kaye's advice for Kevin is to "Enjoy your job and have fun."

"Nothing will change for the membership as Kevin takes over Kaye's meter reading route," assures Steve Catlow, manager of finance and administration

for Benton REA. He encourages members to say "Hello" if they see Kevin in their neighborhood.

Members can help Kevin by keeping the area around their electric meters clear of vegetation and clutter. Also, keeping dogs contained in an area away from the electric meter will allow Kevin to safely read the 7,300 active West Richland meters each month.

Benton REA welcomes Kevin to the cooperative family and wishes Kaye all the best and thanks her for her many years of dedicated service. ■

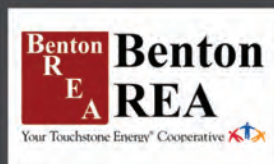


## MORE THAN OPINIONS. EXPERTISE.

Trying to out the right electric vehicle or renewable energy? Take a browsing break and call the energy experts at Benton REA. Working together, Benton REA staff helped me become more of an expert about my energy options. I'll take expertise over opinions any day.

We are **MORE POWERFUL TOGETHER.**

To learn how you and Benton REA are #MorePowerfulTogether, visit [BentonREA.org](http://BentonREA.org).



### In this issue

- 1 PROSSER OFFICE OPEN DURING 7TH STREET ROAD CONSTRUCTION  
NEW WEST RICHLAND METER READER
- 2 MORE POWERFUL TOGETHER
- 3 ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFORMATION ON NEW CO-OP WEBSITE  
GOING UNDERGROUND
- 4 THE FUTURE OF BULBS IS BRIGHT  
SAVE ENERGY WITH LEDS

### COOPERATIVE INFORMATION

#### BENTON RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Prosser Office  
402 7th Street | P.O. Box 1150  
Prosser, WA 99350  
(509) 786-2913  
Toll Free 1-800-221-6987  
Office Hours: Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

West Richland Office  
6095 W. Van Giesen,  
West Richland, WA 99353  
(509) 967-2921  
Office Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Office Closed for Lunch Noon - 12:30 p.m.

[www.BentonREA.org](http://www.BentonREA.org)  
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### MEMBER SERVICES

This newsletter is a product of the Benton REA Member Services and Economic Development Office

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# Electric Vehicle Information on New Co-op Website

BENEFITS

EV FACTS

SAVINGS

CO2 REDUCTION

EV MODELS

TAX CREDITS &  
EXEMPTIONS

PROMOTIONS

CHARGER  
FINDER

Benton REA and PowerNET's new combined website will launch mid-June, and with it comes new resources for those interested in purchasing an electric vehicle.

Stop searching the web and land on BentonREA.com to find the information you need to know about electric vehicles.

Although Benton REA does not sell electric vehicles, nor promote any one specific brand or model, the cooperative is excited about this technology that can save members money and help the environment.

## Savings Calculator

How far does \$3.20 drive your car? Fueled by gasoline, the average car can travel 24 miles. But with electricity it can go 126. Use the Savings Calculator on our website to compare your current gas vehicle to an electric vehicle's energy consumption, annual fuel costs and carbon dioxide emissions.

## Tax Credits and Incentives

Currently, the federal government is offering a \$7,500 tax credit for qualifying electric vehicles. This could bring the cost of an economy electric vehicle down to

just \$20,500 before taxes.

After you buy an electric vehicle, you need to install a fast charger at your home. Benton REA members can save \$300 on their purchase of a Level 2 smart in-home charging station and receive up to \$2,000 in a loan from the cooperative to purchase one. Details about both programs are on our website.

## Car Search

If you've been juggling information from several different websites to find the right electric vehicle for you, stop the circus act and go to our website. Information including miles per charge, charge time and estimated costs for nearly every electric vehicle on the market is there. Search by year, manufacturer, price range, range per charge, charge time or efficiency to find the electric car of your dreams.

## Charger Finder

More and more charging stations are being installed across the country closer and closer to our neighborhoods. But where are they? You can find them and get directions to them on our website's Charger Finder.

So, take a break from your online search and visit [BentonREA.org](http://BentonREA.org) today. ■



## Going Underground

This spring, Benton REA crews moved a 7,200 kV power line off Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) power poles by putting it partially underground and partially above ground onto Benton REA's poles. The move will prevent the possibility of large outages in the West Richland area by creating more distance between two high-voltage power lines.

As load increases on power lines, they get warmer and tend to sag. The possibility of the sagging line could cause it to

drop to unsafe distances. If the two power lines were to touch, large outages could occur. Moving Benton REA's line off the same poles as BPA's line was the only solution to keep Benton REA members' electricity flowing safely and reliably.

Journeyman Linemen Cody Bradshaw, Roman Cortes and Wade Stanton, and apprentice lineman Curtis Bohlke are pictured here constructing some of the new overhead power lines that now serve Benton REA members. ■



# The Future of Bulbs is Bright

When it comes to lighting, the potential for energy efficiency is just too great to ignore. Changing bulbs can change your electric bills, and the monthly savings can add up quickly.

Consumers regularly use dozens of bulbs in fixtures. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, residential lighting makes up 9 percent of all home energy use.

While LED lighting was initially expensive and limited to warm white or a few color temperatures and designs, market acceptance and continued research have forced prices down, increased longevity and led to an expanded variety of products.

To get an idea of your potential for energy savings, complete a home inventory. Don't just count fixtures – count bulbs, check wattage, and whether they are dimmable, three-way or require special bases. Also note the type of bulb now in use. There's a good chance your total bulb count for the average single-family home will be between 50 and 75, including hallways, garages and storage areas.

Many consumers resist switching from ounces to grams or miles to kilometers. But, when it comes to lighting, thinking lumens instead of watts makes sense, because it could save you dollars and cents.

The lower the lumens, the dimmer the light. A 1,000 lumen lamp is equivalent to a 60 Watt incandescent bulb.

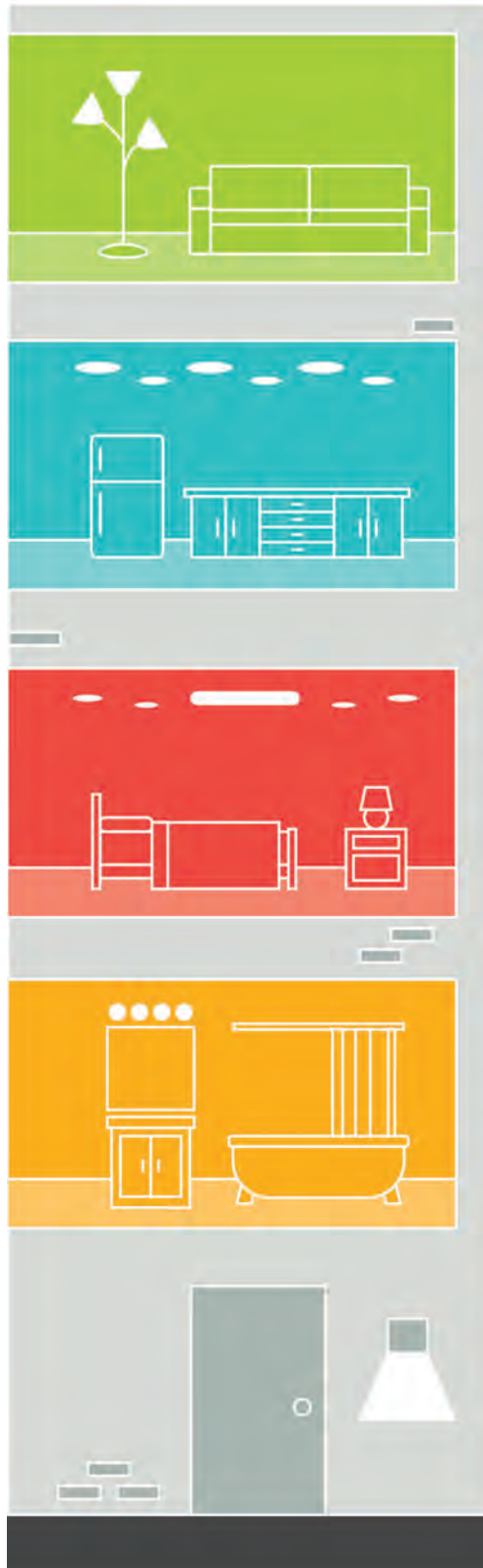
While replacing compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) with LEDs saves energy, consumer preferences have driven a shift away from CFLs, in part because of color and lighting quality.

LEDs have a longer life expectancy and save more energy than CFLs.

See the chart on the right for inspiring and energy saving LED design ideas for your home. ■

## Save Energy with LEDs

LED lights last up to 30 times longer than incandescents, reducing the need to replace bulbs in high or hard-to-reach places. Below are LED lighting suggestions for your home.



### Living Room Lamps

Table or floor three-way lamps using LED bulbs provide 620, 1,600 or 2,150 lumens of soft white light and deliver up to 25,000 hours of light.

### Kitchen

Dimmable recessed LED conversion lights add a warm glow of up to 1,200 lumens for kitchen workspaces and add far less heat to your kitchen. Each bulb could last 10 years.

### Bedrooms and Hallways

Long-life LEDs are ideal for ceiling fixtures. A 9-watt LED produces the same 800 lumens of light as a 60-watt incandescent, and uses about 80 percent less energy.

### Bathrooms

Omnidirectional LED globe bulbs are designed to provide a warm glow ideal for bathrooms. A 6-watt bulb produces 450 lumens and lasts up to 15,000 hours.

### Outdoors

A 6-watt, 500 lumen LED bulb can replace a 40-watt incandescent bulb. Designed to last up to 30,000 hours, it could be a one-time switch.