Benton REA

HIGH-VOLTAGE NEWS

January 2020

P.O. Box 1150, Prosser, WA 99350 • 509-786-2913 • 800-221-6987 • www.BentonREA.org

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DIY: Energy-Efficiency Class

Learn easy ways to save energy and money on January 16

If you want to lower your monthly energy use and don't know where to start, Benton REA's energy-efficiency class is for you.

Sign up for our next class on Thursday, January 16, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Benton REA West Richland Community Room, 6095 W. Van Giesen St.

Every registered attendee will receive a graph depicting their home's energy use from the past three years. Eric Miller, Benton REA's energy adviser, will help members interpret their home's current and past energy use.

Attendees will also learn about the role of appliances, lighting and other energy-users in the home.

Other topics include the importance of a well-insulated, reasonably tight home, selecting a proper heating and cooling system, and the significance of keeping them in good operating order.

One Lux/Geo WiFi Thermostat will be given away at the end of the class. It is valued at $144 plus the cost of the energy you'll save using it.

The class is free for Benton REA members. Nonmembers may attend for $20.

Only 35 seats are available. Register quickly to reserve your seat by calling 509-786-8265 or email eMiller@BentonREA.org. ■

Save the Date for Your 2020 Annual Meeting of Members

Join your neighbors and friends at Benton REA's Annual Meeting of Members July 18 at Leona Libby Middle School in West Richland.

This fun family event will once again feature free tethered rides on the Touchstone Energy hot air balloon.

Children's activities, free bingo and prizes, high-voltage electrical safety demonstrations, lunch and more will precede the business meeting starting at noon.

Mark your calendars for this exciting community event for members of Benton REA. More information and a schedule will be available in your June issue of Ruralite magazine. ■

Trustee Ron Johnson, right, and LED Lucy greet members at the 2019 Annual Meeting of Members.

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.
- Check to see if your neighbors have power.
- Report Benton REA outages by calling 800-221-6987 or use the SmartHub app.

COOPERATIVE INFORMATION

BENTON RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Prosser Office
402 7th St. | P.O. Box 1150
Prosser, WA 99350
509-786-2913
Office Hours: Mon. - Fri., 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

West Richland Office
6095 West Van Giesen St.
West Richland, WA 99353
509-967-2921
Office Hours: Mon.- Fri., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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MEMBER SERVICES

This newsletter is produced by the Benton REA Member Services and Economic Development Department.

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Ron Mitchell, Electrical Advisor
Eric Miller, Energy Advisor

Blood Donors Needed January 23

Benton REA is partnering with the American Red Cross to collect blood donations Thursday, January 23, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Benton REA Prosser office.

Donors of all blood types are needed, especially those with types O negative, B negative and A negative. According to the Red Cross, type O negative is the universal blood type, which can be safely transfused to anyone and is often used to treat trauma patients.

"Hosting a blood drive coincides with the cooperative principle of Concern for Community," says Benton REA General Manager Mike Bradshaw. "With a simple blood donation, we have the ability to help save the life of someone who could be a coworker, loved one or neighbor."

Benton REA hosted two drives in 2019, resulting in 54 donations.

Blood is routinely transfused to patients with cancer and other diseases, premature babies, organ transplant recipients and trauma victims, according to the Red Cross.

"The short amount of time it takes to donate can mean a lifetime to a patient with a serious medical condition," Mike says. "We urge Benton REA members to join us in the selfless act of giving blood."

Benton REA Journeyman Lineworker Curtis Bohlke donated blood at the co-op's drive on August 8, 2019.

For more information or to donate at the January 23 blood drive, call 509-781-6753 or sign up online at redcrossblood.org with sponsor code BREA. ■

Member Photos in Calendar

Benton REA members Mike Bowen and William Meeuwsen's photos are published in Ruralite's 2020 calendar.

Mike captured a sea star, mussels and sea anemone in his photo taken at Cannon Beach, Oregon. William caught a mother bluebird feeding her chick in a birdhouse in Bickleton, Washington. You can see their photos on the March and April pages of the calendar.

Pick up your copy of the 2020 calendar at either Benton REA office in Prosser or West Richland as long as supplies last. ■

3 Quick Tips to Avoid High Winter Bills

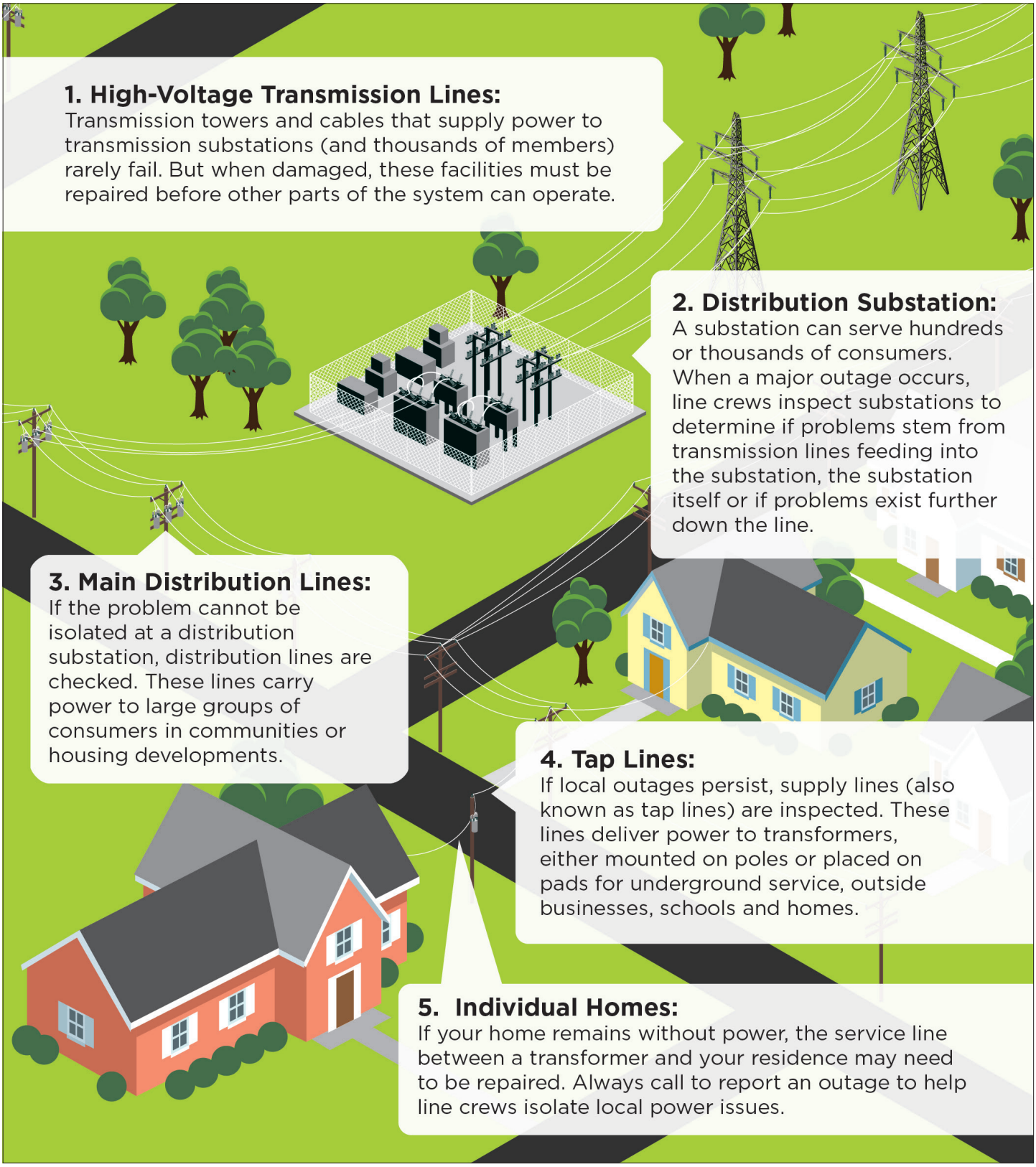
Looking for easy ways to lower your energy bills this winter? Here's a few tips from the Department of Energy:

Open blinds and curtains during the day to allow sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep cold, drafty air out.

Wash clothes in cold water, and use cold-water detergent whenever possible.

Replace incandescent light bulbs with LEDs, which use at least 75 percent less energy.

Powering Up After An Outage

When the power goes out, we expect it to be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm or natural disaster causes widespread damage, extended outages may result.

Benton REA line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safety to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark. ■