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ceo@bentonrea.org

Members Gather at Prosser High School for the 2023 Annual Meeting

It was wonderful to see so many of our members in attendance and enjoying the 2023 Annual Meeting.

Benton REA's 86th Annual Meeting of Members took place on Saturday, July 15 at Prosser High School.

It was a hot day but that didn't stop members and their families from showing up and enjoying all there was to offer.

Tethered hot air balloon rides began at 8:30 a.m. 150 members had the opportunity to float over Prosser on the Touchstone Energy Cooperative balloon.

Prosser Memorial Health was on site administering a free health fair. This was the

first year since 2018 that the health fair had been offered. 71 members took advantage of the simple pulmonary function test, lipid panel, bone density screening, blood sugar test and a blood pressure screening.

Up tempo live music was provided by two groups that are part of the Tri-Cities Steel Band Association: Bram Brata and OK 2 Botay.

Other groups that provided information and booths were Northwest River Partners, Prosser Police Department, West Benton County Fire, local electric vehicle owners and a high voltage safety demonstration.

Child care was provided by Rocky Top 4-H.

The business meeting portion kicked off at noon with a warm welcome from new CEO, Ryan Redmond.

After the year in review and financial update, members were given an opportunity ask questions and make comments to Benton REA staff. The reelection of Trustees Johnson, Grow and Fisher was announced by secretary/treasurer Catherine Russell.

Planning for the 87th Annual Member meeting is already underway! Benton REA Trustees will announce the date and location soon. ■

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Columbia Park
Saturday, October 10



LEFT: The kids guessing games and passport to fun are always a big hit. This little member is logging her guess.

ABOVE: A member of Benton REA is showing off their electric vehicle at the EV Showcase held at the 86th Annual Member Meeting held on July 15, 2023.



READY.

SET.

REGISTER.

9/19/2023

CO-OPS VOTE



**Benton REA offices
CLOSED
Monday, September 4**

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 509-786-1626 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. - Thurs. 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
CLOSED FRIDAY

West Richland Office
6095 W. Van Giesen St.
West Richland, WA 99353
509-967-2921

Office Hours: Mon.- Thurs., 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
CLOSED FRIDAY

Toll Free: 800-221-6987
www.BentonREA.org
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MEMBER SERVICES

This newsletter is produced by the Benton REA Member Services Department:

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Troy Berglund, Deputy General Manager & VP of Member Experience

Shannon Olsen, Member Services Manager

Ron Mitchell, Electrical Advisor

Chad Smith, Energy Efficiency Manager

Leandra Chavez, Administrative Assistant

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know fall is the perfect time to schedule a tune-up for your heating system? Home heating accounts for a large portion of winter energy bills, and no matter what kind of system you have, you can save energy and money by regularly maintaining your equipment.

Combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings can save about 30% on your energy bills.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Get Smart About Home Lighting

Effortless control from anywhere

Gone are the days when a simple flip of the switch was the only choice for illuminating our homes. While we still have this tried-and-true option, we've entered a new era of innovative and intelligent technologies, which includes smart lighting.

Smart lighting connects to Wi-Fi and offers an array of cutting-edge functionality and convenience. Let's look at the main benefits of smart lighting options.

Smart lighting is energy efficient. Most smart bulbs utilize LED technology, which is much more efficient than traditional incandescent lighting. Additionally, smart lighting gives you more control over how and when you light your home, ultimately resulting in less energy used for lighting.

Smart lighting provides convenience and control. Most smart bulbs can be controlled from an app on your smartphone or can be paired with your voice assistant, like Amazon Alexa. You can conveniently control lighting settings from anywhere in your home or when you're away. Whether you want to set a schedule for lighting or adjust brightness levels, these smart options offer effortless control from the comfort of, well, anywhere!

Smart options empower you to personalize home lighting. Bright, warm, purple, green—whatever mood you want to create, smart lighting can help. For a more traditional look, try dimmable white bulbs. If you want to create the perfect ambiance for movie night, look for bulbs that can be adjusted for a variety of vibrant colors. The possibilities are endless.

While smart lighting offers convenience and control, keep in mind your wall light switch will need to stay "on" for you to control the smart bulb from your phone or via voice command. To use a smart bulb, the wall switch it's connected to must be "on" so the bulb receives power, which enables it to connect to a Wi-Fi network.

If you need additional options to operate the lights, consider a smart light switch. Today's smart switches tend to play nicely with smart bulbs. If you want to control your smart bulbs with a physical switch (in addition to using your phone and voice commands), look for smart switches that include a built-in feature that allows both. Many smart light switches include motion detectors as well.

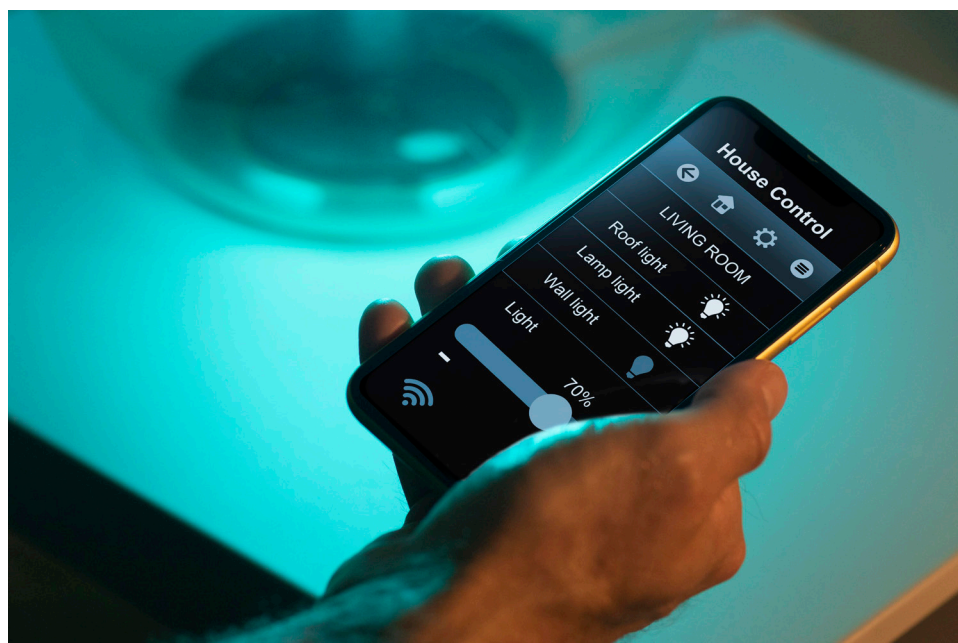
If you're looking to take the plunge and integrate multiple smart bulbs to your home lighting system, your best bet may be a kit, like the Philips Hue Starter Kit. Most kits include several bulbs and any additional tools you'll need to get started.

If you're new to smart home tech and looking to start small, try a smart bulb in a high-traffic area of your home. It's also worth noting that smart plugs are a great starter option and allow convenient control of lamps or other lighting fixtures that are plugged in to a wall outlet. Smart plugs are inexpensive and simply plug in to your existing outlet. Electrical items that are connected to the smart plug can be controlled from a smart phone app, just like smart bulbs.

Whether you're looking for more convenience, colorful options or better ways to manage energy use, smart lighting can provide multiple benefits. Determine which smart lighting features are most important for your needs, then start shopping! ■



Installing smart bulbs throughout your home is as simple as installing a traditional bulb. PHOTO SOURCE: ANETE LUSINA



See you there!



RiverFest

OUR RIVERS, OUR LIFE

SATURDAY OCTOBER 7, 2023

10:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

COLUMBIA PARK, KENNEWICK, WA

A FUN AND FREE FAMILY EVENT!

- **Celebrate Our Rivers**
- **Learn Why Hydropower is Important**
- **Educational Exhibits**
- **Hands On Learning Experiences**
- **Music And Entertainment**
- **Food Vendors**

riverfestwa.com

