



## MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

# AUTUMN SIGNALS PROJECTS AND PREPARATION



**A**s we turn the page on the calendar, we begin another autumn season. That means we are down to 81 days until winter, so plan accordingly. Around our service area, it also signals the beginning of various hunting seasons, which in turn means there will be a lot more people in the woods. Folks need to heighten their awareness of their surroundings and be respectful of others and their property.

Among several other things going on at the cooperative, one important task is to start preparing for next year's board of directors election. Results will be presented at the 2018 annual membership meeting (scheduled for April 19). In 2018, you will be electing directors for District 1 (Clark and Union magisterial districts of Harrison County) and District 2 (Coal and Simpson magisterial districts of Harrison County, and members in Taylor County). Each position is for a three-year term commencing the evening of the annual membership meeting. Persons who maintain their primary residence in either of the aforementioned districts that also meet all of the qualifications as per Article IV, Section 3 of the cooperative's bylaws may be nominated to run for the position. In order to be nominated, an individual needs to comply with Article IV, Section 4 of the cooperative's bylaws, which requires completed documents be returned to the CEO/general manager at least 90 business days prior to the annual membership meeting. That due date is Dec. 7, 2017. If any members have any questions or want additional information, please give me a call at the office.

Members who have taken the necessary steps and who have dedicated the time to serve on your board

have discovered just how important their role is to the overall operation of the cooperative. Serving on the board requires the individual to gain a thorough understanding of many facets of the electric distribution business. It also requires that you put aside your personal agenda and work as part of a team that is focused on serving the membership. The challenges are great, but tough decisions have to be made knowing that a certain percentage of the membership will not agree. It is not an easy undertaking. The rewards are not financial in nature; rewards come in the team participation and in the knowledge that what is accomplished will better the lives of the membership.



**Terry Stout**  
CEO/General Manager

Regular board meetings are generally held the fourth Tuesday of each month. The board may decide to change some dates due to calendar conflicts and holiday recognition. The meetings begin at noon and conclude upon completing all of the items on the particular agenda for that meeting. Information for each meeting is supplied as it becomes available throughout each month via a secured network. Directors are expected to review and study all information prior to attending the meeting. This involves a somewhat significant dedication of time during the month, depending on what is to be presented. It usually takes a few years for each director to become comfortable with their knowledge of how the cooperative is required to function, in

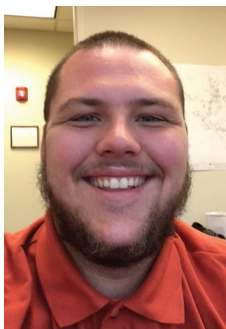
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## MAPPING MINUTE

BY MICHAEL GRIFFITH

# LET'S PLAY A GAME



Michael Griffith  
GIS Specialist

Hey everyone! I hope you are getting settled into your busy fall schedules filled with kids' activities, such as football, cheerleading, and marching band. Or you could be busy going to Mountaineer football games, fall bonfires, fall harvesting, or whatever else you like. As the days become cooler and shorter, sometimes I'll relax in the evenings with some video games.

If you've played any recent popular game, you're most likely playing in some sort of environment — indoors, outdoors, or outer space. Have you ever stepped back to think about the game's

map, or geography? If not, next time that you play, take a second to study the environment. Some games' maps are modeled after real places in the world, such as Ubisoft®'s *Assassin's Creed*, while others, such as Blizzard Entertainment®'s *World of Warcraft*, are not.

Beautiful environments created for these games bring depth to the gameplay and storyline. An engineer spent hours in software designing these areas. The placement of trees, street furniture, roads, terrain, lakes, and buildings are usually placed by hand. The amount of detail that gets applied is astonishing. For example, in *World of Warcraft*, the environments vary and contain city centers, swamps, forests, arctic tundra, deserts, caves, and much more. (Yes, I focus on this game because I do actually play it.) All of these environments were probably designed in a geographic information system (GIS)-type program or 3D rendering program to achieve these results.



Map from *World of Warcraft*

Without these environments, your game would be dull and the storyline would be lackluster. One of my favorite things to do in an open world-type game is to explore the map to see what it has to offer and marvel at the efforts that went into the design. Our world is a beautiful place that deserves to be explored, but if you have the interest and some free time, check out a video game to and think about what you see on the screen. The science of geography doesn't always have to fall squarely in the physical world. It envelops us with everything we do, and video game environments are no different.

So sit down for a change. Pull up a controller or keyboard and enjoy yourself. This has been your [#Mapping Minute](#).

## Cyber Hygiene Checklist

Clip and save this cyber security checklist to keep your computer and devices secure.

- Passwords are complex, using a mix of upper and lower-case letters and special characters.
- All software is up to date. (Check for automatic updates.)
- Anti-virus software is installed and up to date.
- All devices are backed up to an external storage system. (Back up devices every few weeks.)
- Preset passwords on all internet-connected devices, like smart TVs and fitness bracelets, have been changed to passwords only I know.
- Parental controls have been set on hardware and software to keep kids safe while browsing the internet.

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month. For more cybersecurity tips, visit [www.staysafeonline.org](http://www.staysafeonline.org).





## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

# The dreaded **VAMPIRE LOADS**

**P**erhaps you are familiar with an undesirable aspect of the electronic revolution: vampire loads. Vampire loads come from devices that use electricity even when they appear to be off. The primary culprits are chargers, set-top television boxes, instant-on televisions, and gaming systems. There are others, but these four represent the major offenders.

Let's look at how these vampire loads occur and why they are approaching 10 percent of average household electric use, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Chargers take the 120 VAC (volts alternating current) power at the outlet and reduce it to the voltage required by the connected device, usually 5 to 12 VDC (volts direct current). Obviously, when your device is charging, the charger is using electricity, but you might be surprised to learn that chargers are still using small amounts of energy when they're not connected to a device.

Television set-top boxes also consume energy when they appear to be inactive. Anytime the set-top box's lights are on, it is using power. Like chargers, they use more when the television is on, but they are always working — even when the TV is off. This is especially true for those devices with a DVR function that records your favorite TV shows.

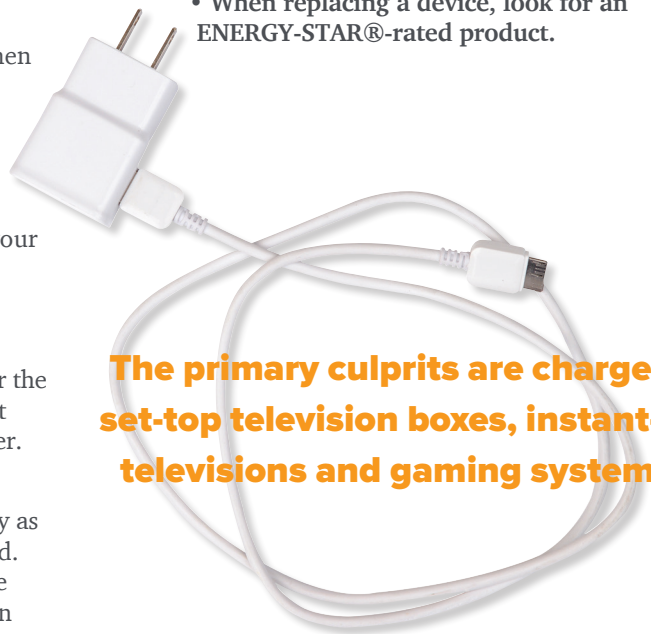
The instant-on television is another culprit. The intention of the “instant-on” feature is instant gratification for the viewer, meaning no waiting for the TV to turn on and warm up. Unfortunately, for that convenience, the TV must be on at nearly full power. So, in this mode, it's a real energy drain.

The typical gaming console can use as much energy as a regular refrigerator, even when it's not being used. Make sure to check the console settings and disable automatic updates, which is where the energy drain comes from. Games on the console are frequently updated, which requires a lot of electricity.

So how does the average family combat these dreaded vampire loads? Garlic garlands? Silver bullets?

Fortunately, none of the remedies of fable are necessary. You just need to change how you handle these energy-sucking electronics. Here are a few suggestions.

- **Unplug chargers when not in use.**
- **Invest in smart power strips.** These look like normal power strips but have a twist; one of the outlets is the “master” that receives power all the time. The others are off. When the device connected to the master outlet turns on, the rest of the outlets receive power too. Have the television in the master outlet, and when you turn it on, the set-top box, speakers, streaming devices, etc., will turn on, too. They are also ideal for PCs and their peripherals.
- **Turn off the instant-on function on your TV.** Turn off set-top boxes that do not contain the DVR functionality or use a smart power strip.
- **Disable automatic updates in gaming consoles,** and turn the console completely off when you finish using it.
- **When replacing a device, look for an ENERGY-STAR®-rated product.**



**The primary culprits are chargers, set-top television boxes, instant-on televisions and gaming systems.**

Vampire loads are a real problem that will only continue to grow as the digital age advances. But you can fight the vampires with vigilance and application of the recommendations above.



# HARRISON RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ASSOCIATION LOCAL PAGES

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accordance with layers of federal and state regulations. There are training and education opportunities available to assist individuals in attaining and improving their understanding of the requirements of the position.

In other areas, the cooperative is continuing to complete as many projects as possible before the weather changes. In the near future, if not already done so by this publication, all of the management staff will be meeting to address current-year performance and future goals and objectives. This is done in concert with the annual budget and is a vital process in making sure that we are all working toward the same thing. This is also a good educational tool in spreading knowledge of each department's specialization throughout the cooperative. Attaining positive results from this team environment is essential to the current and future success of the cooperative as an electric distribution provider.

Cooperative managers need to have the ability to operate outside of their particular comfort zone by increasing their knowledge of how each act and decision they make affects the other aspects of the cooperative. Obviously, each individual is different and progresses at their own pace, but they must show progress if they are to be a true member of the team

Enjoy this new autumn season and start prepping for the upcoming holiday season.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Fall/winter tip: When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat back 10 to 15 degrees for eight hours to save around 10 percent a year on your heating and cooling bills. A programmable thermostat can make it easy to set back your temperature — set it and forget it!

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



## Happy Birthday!

If you see these HREA employees this month, be sure to wish them a very happy birthday!

**Scott Wyckoff**

**October 18**



### HARRISON RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

**CONTACT**  
304-624-6365  
www.harrisonrea.com

**REPORT AN OUTAGE**  
1-800-540-4732

**OFFICE**  
600 Market Place, Suite 104  
Bridgeport, WV 26330

**OFFICE HOURS**  
Mon. - Fri. 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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