



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY **MOUNTAIN STATE!**

**A** big howdy to all of you wonderful folks out there! I hope you are all doing well today. It's that wonderful time of year when we celebrate the birthday of our Wild and Wonderful state of West Virginia. So, for this month, let's learn some more facts that are near and dear to our hearts, because I DO love random facts!

1. West Virginia is the only state in the Union to have acquired its sovereignty by proclamation of the President of the United States. Yup, when Virginia seceded from the Union to join the Confederacy, loyal unionists in the trans-Allegheny region pushed to become their own state. Finally, two long years later, West Virginia was formally admitted to the United States of America on June 20, 1863.
2. West Virginia's nickname is the Mountain State and its motto is "Mountaineers Are Always Free."
3. West Virginia has an average altitude of 1,500 feet, making it the highest average altitude east of the Mississippi. They don't call us the Mountain State for nothing!
4. West Virginia is considered the southernmost northern state and the northernmost southern state. Talk about an identity crisis! Ask your friends what they think. Do they think WV is a northern state or a southern state?

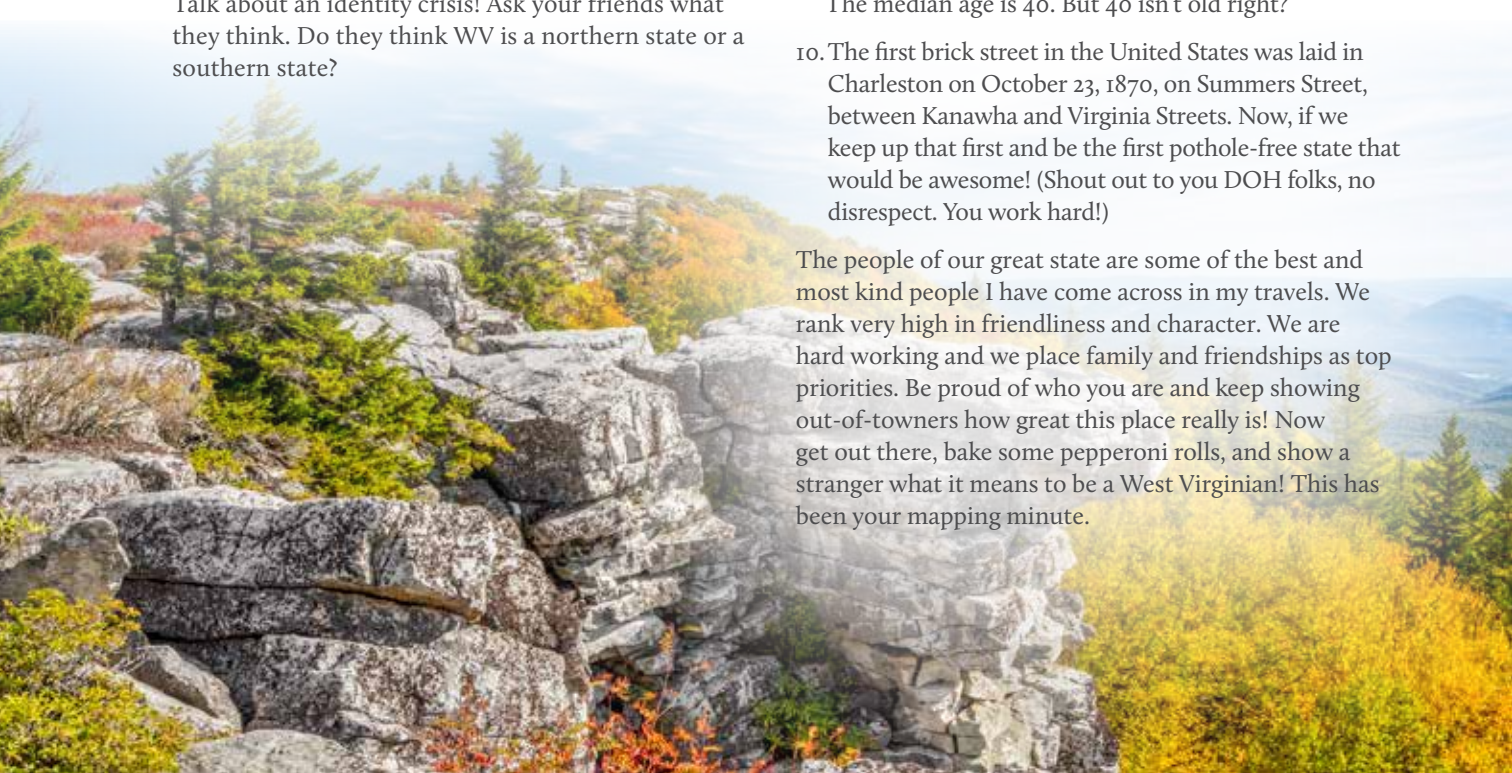
5. Mother's Day was founded in Grafton on May 10, 1908, because our moms are the best and we show them respect!
6. The first rural-free mail delivery was started in Charles Town on October 6, 1896, and then spread throughout the United States.



Michael Griffith  
GIS SPECIALIST

7. Outdoor advertising had its beginnings in Wheeling about 1908, when the Block Brothers Tobacco Company painted bridges and barns with the wording: "Treat Yourself to the Best, Chew Mail Pouch." Now you know where this originated and why you still see these ads painted on barns!
8. Nearly 75 percent of West Virginia is covered by forests. They are what give us our beautiful landscape and healthy logging industry.
9. West Virginia has the oldest population of any state. The median age is 40. But 40 isn't old right?
10. The first brick street in the United States was laid in Charleston on October 23, 1870, on Summers Street, between Kanawha and Virginia Streets. Now, if we keep up that first and be the first pothole-free state that would be awesome! (Shout out to you DOH folks, no disrespect. You work hard!)

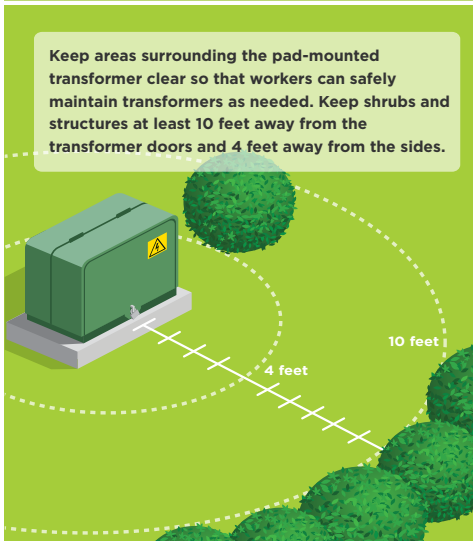
The people of our great state are some of the best and most kind people I have come across in my travels. We rank very high in friendliness and character. We are hard working and we place family and friendships as top priorities. Be proud of who you are and keep showing out-of-towners how great this place really is! Now get out there, bake some pepperoni rolls, and show a stranger what it means to be a West Virginian! This has been your mapping minute.





MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

# RESPECTING PAD-MOUNTED TRANSFORMERS



Driving to work one morning, I saw elementary-aged youngsters waiting for a school bus, sitting on a big green metal box. Little did they know that inside that box was vital electrical equipment, distributing electricity to several homes in the area.

Pad-mounted transformers make up about [insert number or percentage for your co-op's territory] of the transformers used across Harrison Rural Electrification Association's system. Electricity flows through them inside the casing.

Transformers change voltage from higher levels to lower voltages people use in their homes for their electronics, appliances, and lighting. Each of HREA's transformers can be vital to providing electricity to several homes.

While overhead power lines are mounted on utility poles and substations are protected by security fences, pad-mounted transformers, switch boxes, and pedestals are at ground level. In many newer subdivisions and residential developments, overhead lines are no longer an option. Burying power lines also reduces potential system damage from high winds and severe storms. While consumers seldom see technicians working on the transformers unless there are power outages, they are regularly inspected by co-op crews.

Co-op technicians need at least 10 feet of clearance at the opening side of a pad-mounted transformer, and four feet of open space is preferable at the rear and on the sides. That distance allows for tool use, including hot sticks — typically eight feet in length, used to work with energized equipment. It also ensures that one or two technicians working on a transformer have space to maneuver should they have to back away if problems occur.

Pad-mounted transformers are connected to primary high-voltage lines, and secondary lines can extend in several directions to distribute power to homes and businesses. That's why it's important to check with HREA before planting shrubs or trees, setting fence posts, installing sprinkler systems, and digging where it might damage underground lines.

HREA recommends that you call 8-1-1 for a site assessment and marking before proceeding with projects that might disrupt utility service. Please be safe this summer, and avoid those big green boxes.



Terry Stout  
CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

## There's an app for that!

Pay bills, report outages, and monitor your electric use — all through the SmartHub app. Download it FREE for Apple or Android smartphones at the app store.



“Dads are most ordinary men turned by love into heroes, adventurers, story-tellers, and singers of song.”

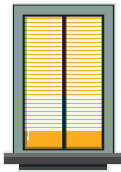
— Pam Brown

# Happy Father's Day!



# Summer Energy-Saving Tips

Costs associated with cooling your home can make up a large portion of your summer electric bills. Stay cool and save money with these energy-efficiency tips!

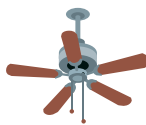


## NO-COST TIPS

Close blinds and drapes during the day to keep heat out.



Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home. Set it to a higher temperature when you're away.

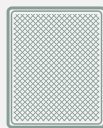


Turn off lights and ceiling fans when you leave a room.



## LOW-COST TIPS

Plant trees and shrubs to shade the exterior of your home.



Replace disposable air filters (or clean permanent filters) once a month to maximize efficiency.



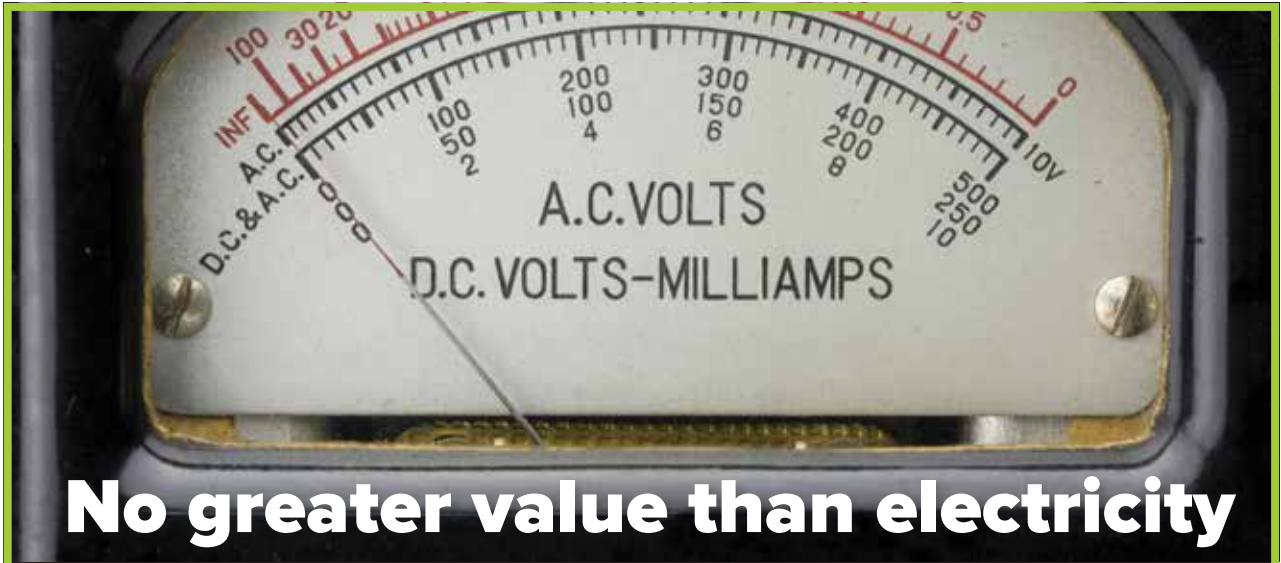
Use solar lighting to brighten up your outdoor space. Solar lights are easy to install, low maintenance, and provide free electricity.

**Harrison Rural Electrification  
Association, Inc.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



# HARRISON RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ASSOCIATION LOCAL PAGES



## No greater value than electricity

The average cost of one day's worth of electricity is about \$6.  
It's actually a better deal today than it was in 1940.

### With \$1 of electricity, you can:



Keep a  
9-watt  
light on  
for 1,111 hours



Watch  
151 movies



Wash clothes  
for 20 hours

#### HARRISON RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

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