

## NVREC redistricts service territory to balance representation between districts

Last fall, the Nishnabotna Valley REC board of directors voted to redistrict the cooperative's service territory.

The decision was made to help balance the number of members in each of the seven districts, ensuring equitable representation across NVREC's service area. The redistricting changes became effective on January 1, 2025. The last update to district boundaries was made in 1977.

### Eligibility for nominating committee and board of directors

Members with an active account—whether it is a home, business, grain bin, well, or cattle yard—within each of the seven districts are eligible to serve on the nominating committee.

The nominating committee is appointed annually in April or May and is scheduled to meet in July to nominate candidates before the cooperative's annual meeting.

Members interested in running for the board of directors must reside in the district they wish to represent, ensuring a direct connection to, and understanding of, their district's needs.

### Voting for board of directors

While directors represent specific districts, voting for board candidates is conducted at large. This means every NVREC member, regardless of their district, has the opportunity to vote for all candidates running for the board.

This approach reflects one of the seven cooperative principles: democratic member control.

Each active member has one vote—whether they hold a single account, a joint account, or represent an organization with multiple employees. This ensures that every member has an equal say in the governance of the cooperative.

### Find your district

To find your district, please refer to the updated NVREC service territory map to the right.

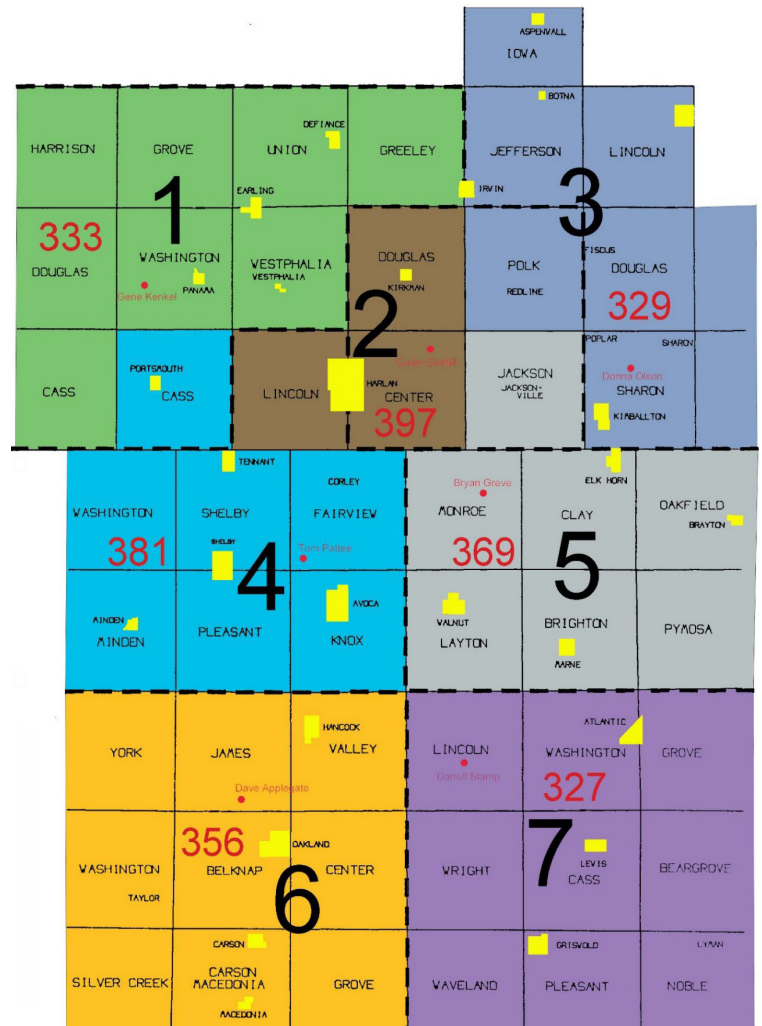
For a more detailed map, please visit [NVREC.com](http://NVREC.com) to review the changes and view the updated map.

Questions? Contact us at 712-755-2166 for assistance.

### Get involved!

Members' active participation is vital in the success of the co-op. By working together we can ensure NVREC continues to fulfill our mission of providing safe, reliable, affordable, and sustainable electricity to our communities.

District	Previous Member Count	Revised Member Count
1	412	333
2	388	397
3	278	329
4	464	381
5	287	369
6	351	356
7	330	327



*If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee or running for the board of directors, please reach out to us for more information about the nominating process, eligibility requirements, and position responsibilities.*

# NVREC spreads holiday cheer with festive competition

*In December, co-op employees formed four teams to decorate Christmas trees in the Nishnabotna Valley REC lobby.*

*NVREC's board of directors and followers on Facebook voted for their favorites.*



**Director's choice winners:** Janell Leinen, Jake Cook, Dave Curren, Mason Irlbeck, and Dillon Clark.



**Facebook choice winners:** Todd Bruck, Chad Pitts, Stephanie Nielsen, and Kylie Beebe.

*Thank you to everyone who took time to vote on Facebook in our Christmas tree contest!*

**Congratulations to Jill Daeges from Harlan, who was randomly selected from the Facebook voters to win a mini wireless speaker.**

# NVREC Youth Tour applications available now

Nishnabotna Valley REC is currently accepting applications from area sophomores and juniors to win an all-expense paid trip to our nation's capital as part of the national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

This experience brings together students from Iowa and across the nation to learn more about electric co-ops, government, and to meet with members of Congress.

For more information, contact our office at 712-755-2166 or visit our website at [NVREC.com/youth-tour](http://NVREC.com/youth-tour).

Applications are due by March 21, 2025.



**Students can apply now for a trip to Washington, D.C., from June 15-21!**

Area students interested in government and public service are encouraged to apply. Learn more at [IowaYouthTour.com](http://IowaYouthTour.com)



# Help those in need this winter

Cold weather can wreak havoc on electric bills during long and windy winter nights. Thankfully, Nishnabotna Valley REC members can help their fellow Iowans through a program called RECare.

This program provides local community action agencies with the funds to help low-income families pay for winter heating bills, weatherize their homes, and allows you to help other less fortunate rural electric cooperative members.

Through RECare, you may make a one-time contribution or a monthly pledge that will automatically be added to your monthly electric bill. Even one dollar a month will help others. To participate, please clip out the form below, and complete the required information.

## Consumer Authorization Form

Yes, I want to be part of members helping members and contribute to RECare.

- I will make a one-time contribution to RECare. My check is enclosed.
- I will contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month to RECare. I understand that this amount will be automatically added to my monthly electric bill.
- My gift is a matching fund gift. The matching fund is \$\_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
 ACCOUNT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
 STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_



Please mail to: RECare,  
 Nishnabotna Valley Rural Electric Cooperative  
 P.O. Box 714, 1317 Chatburn  
 Harlan, IA 51537  
 (712) 755-2166

YES, please enter our names in the drawing for the trip. We understand that if our names are drawn, we will be billed \$100.

Our first and second choice of dates:

- |            |     |     |     |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|
| June 18-20 | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
| June 25-27 | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
| July 9-11  | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |

(please circle)

I/we  have  have not participated in this tour in the past.

First Person \_\_\_\_\_

Second Person \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Clip this coupon and return it to the cooperative by April 25, 2025.



## Energy Trail Tour 2025

Nishnabotna Valley Rural Electric Cooperative and Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative invite you to join us for one of three Energy Trail Tours being offered this summer. This three-day adventure will allow you to experience, first-hand, how your power providers convert energy from water, wind, and coal into electricity. View coal being mined and see how those mines are then returned to productive farm and native grass lands. Enjoy interactive walking tours through a hydroelectric and coal-fired energy generation facility and other stops along the way. Meet other cooperative member-owners while traveling together across the Dakotas on-board a motor-coach bound for the North Dakota's Energy Loop. \$100 per couple covers your lodging, meals and entry fees. The remainder of your tour costs are covered by Nishnabotna Valley Rural Electric Cooperative.

Seven lucky couples from Nishnabotna Valley Rural Electric Cooperative will be selected at random from those who sign up.



# Switch Makes Cents: upgraded technology for smarter savings

Nishnabotna Valley REC's ongoing upgrades to our Switch Makes Cents program are nearing completion.

This initiative replaces outdated interruptible load control switches with advanced technology, ensuring better efficiency and reliability for our members.

## A Legacy of Savings

The Switch Makes Cents program started in the late 1980s, born from the innovative idea that temporarily controlling energy usage during peak times could reduce demand charges from our power provider.

By controlling appliances like water heaters, air conditioners, and in limited cases electric heat, NVREC could avoid costly peak demand fees.

These savings are passed directly to you, our member-owners, helping keep your electric bills affordable.

## Why Upgrade?

Previously, the program relied on older switches installed in homes or businesses to communicate load control commands. These switches, while effective, had limitations.

Signals sent to the switches sometimes failed to confirm whether the load was successfully reduced—similar to spotty cellular service.

With the new switches, NVREC and our power provider, Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative, can now receive confirmation signals from the devices. This ensures the expected energy demand reductions are happening reliably and efficiently.

## Progress and Participation

To complete this upgrade, NVREC is replacing approximately 4,000 load

control devices. By the end of 2024, nearly 79 percent of the project had been completed.

Member Services Representative Kylie Beebe has been actively contacting member-owners to schedule these important updates.

If you haven't heard from us yet and still have an older device, we encourage you to reach out to our office to upgrade your Switch Makes Cents equipment.

## How to Check If You Have SMC

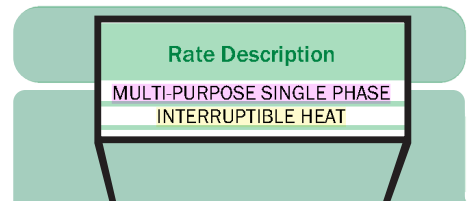
Unsure if you're part of the Switch Makes Cents program? Take a look at your electric bill. If you see a line

item labeled "Interruptible Heat" or "Dual Heat," this indicates participation in the program for heating, air conditioning, or water heating energy consumption.

If you're not currently enrolled, you could be missing out on valuable savings every month. Joining the program is a simple way to reduce your energy costs.

## Start Saving Today

To schedule your load control device upgrade or learn more about the Switch Makes Cents program, contact us today at 712-755-2166 or by emailing us at [info@nvrec.com](mailto:info@nvrec.com)



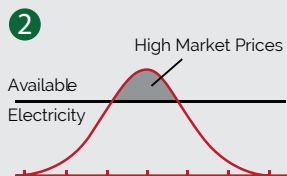
Current Service Detail		
Peak Demand 09/28/24 05:00 PM	4.49 kW @ 0.00	
<b>Balance Forward</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
Facility Charge		\$36.07
kWh Charge	1,748 kWh @ 0.1389	\$242.80
Base PCA	1,748 kWh @ 0.0015398	\$2.69
Facility Charge		\$8.24
Interruptible Heat	3,932 kWh @ 0.0693	\$272.49
Base PCA	3,932 kWh @ 0.0015398	\$6.05
County Tax		\$5.69
<b>Total Electric Charges</b>		<b>\$574.03</b>
<b>Total Amount Due 10/29/2024</b>		<b>\$574.03</b>
<b>\$8.61 (1.5%) late charge applies after 10/29/2024</b>		<b>\$582.64</b>

As the sample bill illustrates, members who participate in the Switch Makes Sense program will typically see an "Interruptible Heat" or "Dual Heat" line as highlighted above.

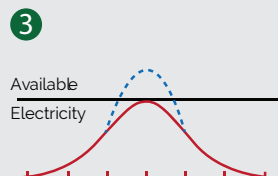
## How Switch Makes Sense helps beat peak while saving members money



1 Home uses electricity for water heating, home heating, and cooling.



2 Electric demand begins to exceed current power supply.



3 Load control is used to avoid peak demand and maintain system reliability.



4 Equipment automatically returns to normal operation when demand normalizes.

# 2025 ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES

To see if you qualify for any of these rebates, contact our member service department at 712-755-2166.

Rebate forms available at [NVREC.com](http://NVREC.com).

RESIDENTIAL

## GEOTHERMAL

New: \$1,400/ton • Replacement: \$750/ton

Up to 30% cost. Max \$10,000 per home.

## AIR-TO-AIR HEAT PUMP

New or replacement with electric backup: \$700/ton

New or replacement without electric backup: \$500/ton

Up to 30% cost. Max \$10,000 per home.

## DUCTLESS MINI-SPLIT HEAT PUMPS

With electric backup: New or Replacement: \$700

Without electric backup: New or Replacement: \$500

Up to 15% of the cost. Max \$5,000 per home.

## BUILDING INSULATION

Professionally installed, blown-in, spray foam, AeroShield, insulating concrete forms, rigid styrofoam panels, and/or structural panel type insulation: 20% of installed cost

Max rebate of \$800 per building/year.

Building must have electric heat as the primary heating source.

## CONTROLLED WATER HEATERS

### Residential or Commercial

50 gallon: \$300 • 51-75 gallon: \$350 • 76-85 gallon: \$400 • 86+ gallon: \$500

Does not apply to on-demand or tankless systems. Must be 50+ gallons with EF of .90 or greater.

Lump sum or 30% of cost, apply lesser of the two.

## ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS

50% cost, up to \$750/charger

Level 2 or higher (208-240V) • Must be hardwired and installation must meet all codes

Member to provide charger make, model, S/N, specifications • Cannot back-feed into the system

Load control switch required • Must have built in accessible meter or REC meter installed.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

COMMERCIAL

## GEOTHERMAL

New: \$1,400/ton • Replacement: \$750/ton

Up to 30% cost. Max \$10,000 per home.

## DUCTLESS MINI-SPLIT HEAT PUMPS

New or replacement with electric backup: \$700

New or replacement without electric backup: \$500

Up to 30% of cost; No more than \$75,000/business or farm.

## BUILDING INSULATION

Professionally installed, blown-in, spray foam, AeroShield, insulating concrete forms, rigid styrofoam panels, and/or structural panel type insulation: 10% of installed cost

Max rebate of \$2,000 per building/year.

## ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS

50% cost, up to \$1,200/charger

Level 2 or higher (208-240V) • Must be hardwired and installation must meet all codes

Member to provide charger make, model, S/N, specifications • Cannot back-feed into the system

Load control switch required • Must have built in accessible meter or REC meter installed.

## AIR-TO-AIR HEAT PUMP

New with electric backup: \$700/ton

New without electric backup: \$500/ton

Up to 30% cost. \$50,000 max/business or farm.

# Stay safe and energy efficient this winter

## Using space heaters and preventing fire hazards

- **Keep a safe distance:** Always place space heaters at least three feet away from flammable materials like curtains, furniture, bedding, or rugs.
- **Use approved models:** Choose space heaters with an automatic shut-off feature to prevent overheating or tipping hazards, and ensure they are certified by a reputable testing lab (e.g., UL, CSA).
- **Plug directly into an outlet:** Never use extension cords or power strips with space heaters, as they can overheat and increase the risk of fire.



## Storm preparedness tips

- **Stay safe during ice storms and outages:** Avoid unnecessary travel, stay indoors, and keep flashlights or battery-powered lanterns ready for lighting during power outages. Avoid using candles to reduce fire risks.
- **Build an emergency kit:** Stock up on essentials like non-perishable food, bottled water, batteries, a first aid kit, blankets, and a battery-powered or hand-crank radio to stay informed.
- **Keep devices charged:** Charge phones and backup power banks ahead of a storm. Unplug sensitive electronics during outages.

## Electrical safety outdoors tips

- **Stay away from downed power lines:** Treat all downed lines as live and dangerous. Stay at least 30 feet away and report them to your utility company immediately.
- **Build an emergency kit:** Stock up on essentials like non-perishable food, bottled water, batteries, a first aid kit, blankets, and a battery-powered or hand-crank radio to stay informed.



- **Inspect and secure cords:** Ensure outdoor extension cords and holiday lights are rated for outdoor use, free of damage, and elevated off the ground to avoid water exposure and freezing.

## Generator safety tips

- **Use outdoors only:** Always operate generators outdoors, away from windows, doors, and vents, to prevent carbon monoxide buildup inside your home.
- **Prevent backfeed:** Connect the generator to your home's electrical system only with a transfer switch installed by a licensed electrician to avoid dangerous backfeed that could endanger lineworkers.
- **Follow load limits:** Avoid overloading the generator by using it only for essential appliances and devices; refer to the manufacturer's guidelines to ensure safe operation.



## Tree trimming and maintenance tips

- **Maintain clearance around power lines:** Have tree branches near power lines regularly trimmed to prevent them from causing outages or sparking fires during winter storms. Always hire professionals for work near electrical lines.
- **Inspect for hazardous trees:** Look for trees or limbs weakened by disease or storms that could fall onto power lines and pose safety risks.
- **Report issues promptly:** Notify NVREC if you notice trees or branches dangerously close to power lines or other electrical infrastructure.



# Scholarship change encourages trade school options

The Nishnabotna Valley REC board of directors recently voted to offer several additional scholarships, prioritizing students planning to attend a trade school or two-year technical school. The change brings the total amount of scholarship funds potentially available to \$7,000 for the 2025-2026 school year.

Available scholarships include:

- Basin Electric Power Cooperative \$1,000 scholarship. Student must be an NVREC member dependent.
- Nishnabotna Valley Foundation \$1,000 electrical lineworker scholarship. Available to all area students

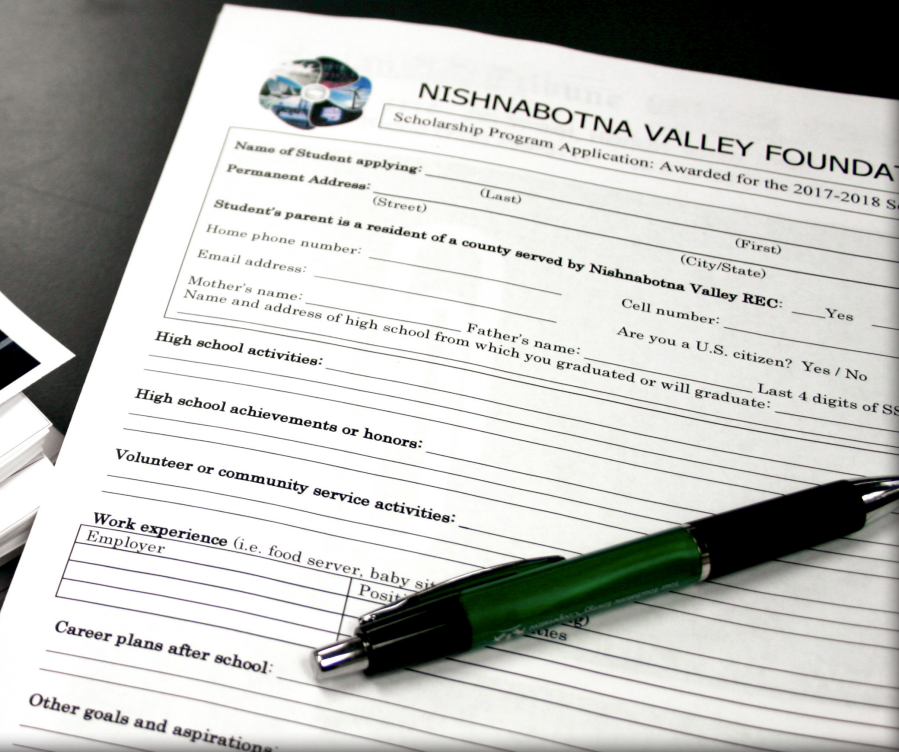
enrolled in or planning to attend an accredited electrical lineworker program. Student must be a graduate of a high school in or near NVREC's service territory.

- The foundation has three \$1,000 scholarships for students enrolled in or planning to enroll in a four-year college or university. Student must be an NVREC member dependent.
  - The foundation also has three \$1,000 scholarships for students enrolled in or planning to enroll in a trade school or two-year technical school given priority. Student must be an NVREC member dependent.
- Recipients of the scholarships will

be chosen based on a combination of school attendance, ACT or SAT scores, overall grade point average, work experience, participation in school and community activities, career goals, an essay written by the applicant about his/her understanding of the cooperative business model, and a written recommendation by a third party.

For more information and applications, please visit [NVREC.com](http://NVREC.com). All entries must reach the REC office no later than February 14, 2025.

If you have questions, please contact Janell Leinen at the REC office in Harlan at 712-755-2166.



1317 Chatburn Avenue, PO Box 714 • Harlan, Iowa 51537

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 7:30am to 4:00pm

Telephone: (712) 755-2166 • Fax: (712) 755-2351

Website: [NVREC.com](http://NVREC.com) • Follow us on Facebook!

Outages after hours, holidays, weekends: (800) 234-5122

Nishnabotna Valley Rural Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

President.....Donna Olson  
 Vice President ..... Gene Kenkel  
 Secretary-Treasurer .....Bryan Greve  
 Director .....Dave Applegate  
 Director .....Darrell Stamp  
 Director ..... Tom Pattee

Director ..... Galen Grabill  
 Chief Executive Officer ..... Bill McKim  
 Director of Operations ..... Kert Barnum  
 Manager of Administrative Services..... Kara Meiners  
 Communication Specialist..... Janell Leinen

# Nishnabotna Valley REC

PO Box 714

Harlan, IA 51537

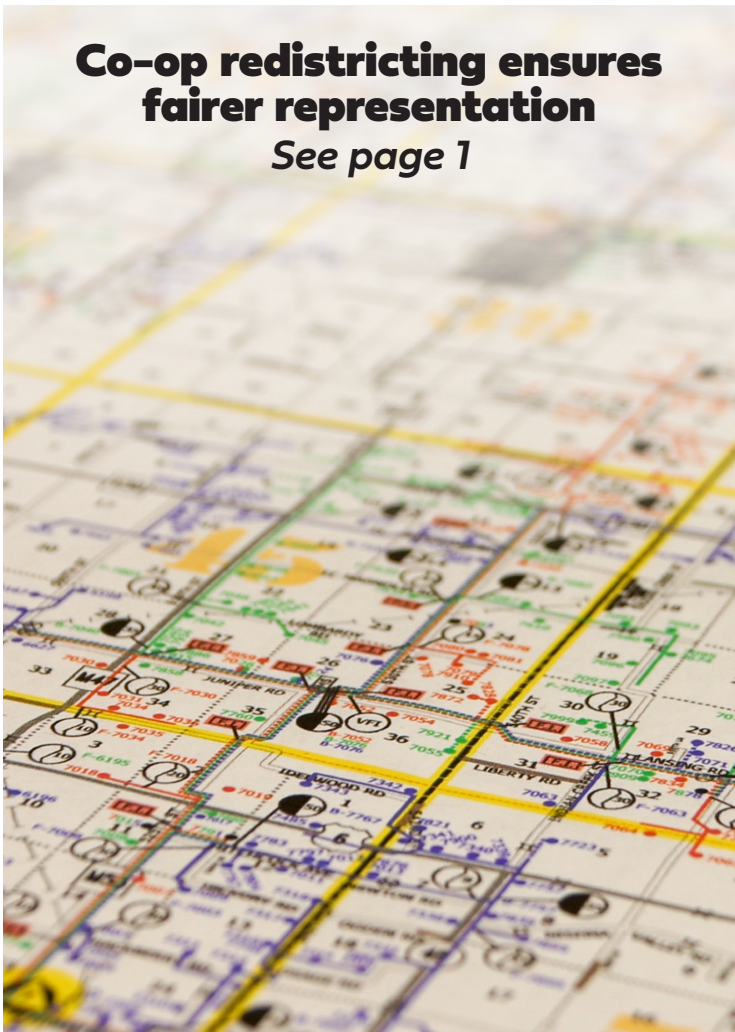
Address Service Requested

PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
DPC



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

*Nishnabotna Valley REC will provide safe and reliable electric service to its members in a valuable, sustainable, and environmentally responsible manner.*



**Co-op redistricting ensures fairer representation**  
*See page 1*



**Energy Trail Tour sign-up form**  
*Available on page 4*



**Students:  
win a trip to  
Washington, D.C.**  
*See page 4*

**2025 energy efficiency rebates**  
*See page 5*

**College, trade school scholarships**  
*See page 7*