

Happy Independence Day!



*Freedom is never given;
it is won.*

~A. Philip Randolph

Our offices will be closed July 4, 2017, for the holiday.

Message from the President

Inspired by Independence

On Independence Day, many of us celebrate the holiday by gathering with family and friends for activities such as watching fireworks, grilling burgers, and participating in community celebrations. These traditions are how we Americans celebrate the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

As you enjoy the holiday, take a moment to reflect on the significance of the day. Approving the Declaration on July 4, 1776, was a bold and brave move for the members of the Continental Congress. A document declaring a people's liberties and freedoms was unheard of in its time — and signing it was considered an act of treason.

Today, this historic document remains a guiding light for Americans. It inspires us to continually expand on the ideals of freedom. The founding of Blue Grass Energy is a perfect example of the

heights that can be reached by those who are inspired by independence.

Local people denied the benefits and conveniences of electricity took the first steps toward a new kind of freedom in 1937. They banded together to make electricity accessible to rural homes, and succeeded in gaining independence from life in the dark. They, among others, were making life better, the cooperative way.

Whether on the grand scale of national independence or the freedoms



Michael I. Williams
President & CEO

Continued on 30D

Keep Food Safe

Before, During and After a Power Outage

Unfortunately, power outages do occur from time to time. It's important to know how to keep your food safe during an outage. Use these tips from USDA to help minimize food loss and reduce your risk of illness.

Before power outage



Keep refrigerator at **40° or below**. Freeze items like fresh meat and poultry that you won't use immediately. Keep freezer set to **0° or below**. Group frozen foods to help items stay colder longer.



If you anticipate an extended power outage, buy dry or block ice to keep the fridge and/or freezer cold.

During power outage

Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed!

If the doors stay closed during the length of the outage:



A full freezer will hold its temperature for **48 hours**.



A refrigerator will keep food safe for **four hours**.

After power outage



Check the temperature inside your refrigerator and/or freezer.



If the temperatures are safe, the food should be safe to eat.

Foods that should be thrown out after an extended power outage:

Meat, poultry or seafood products

Milk, yogurt and other dairy products

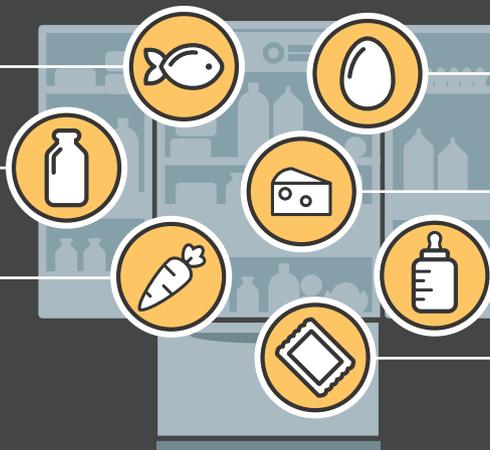
Cooked or sliced produce

Eggs and egg products

Soft and shredded cheese

Opened baby formula

Dough and cooked pasta



Source: USDA

Text to Pay — quick, secure & convenient

You can pay your Blue Grass Energy bill by text.

Blue Grass Energy offers a secure way to make a payment...texting!

Available 24/7, this feature is free and enrolling is simple.

First, verify your mobile number and payment profile with us.

Next, text the word “start” to 352667 and follow the prompts. You can check your balance, pay the full amount, or make a partial payment.

Once submitted, you will receive a confirmation number so you can have peace of mind your transaction was completed.

Bill pay by text...just another way we are making life better, the cooperative way.

TEXTto**PAY**



Setting off fireworks on the 4th? Look for power lines

We know many will celebrate the holiday with fireworks. We want you to have a safe holiday so we reached out to our safety coordinator, Matt Thomas, for his advice. Here's what he had to share with us:

Most people celebrate by watching a local, professional show—supervised by firefighters. But if you're starting the performance early with consumer fireworks, here are some tips:

- Your fireworks might be legal, but that doesn't mean they are safe. The U.S. Fire Administration reports thousands of fireworks-related injuries each summer. The biggest threat: firecrackers, followed by bottle rockets, and sparklers, which burn at about 2,000 degrees.
- Fireworks are especially dangerous when used near power lines, so stay clear. Light fireworks only in open areas where no power lines can be seen, and call us immediately if your celebration gets tangled in an overhead wire.

- Children should be spectators, not participants, in the show. Never give children fireworks or sparklers.
- Read and carefully follow directions and warning labels. Most injuries result from improper use.

While celebrating Independence Day, take the necessary precautions to ensure a safe holiday. Make yourself aware of your surroundings—stay clear of power lines, structures, and vehicles when shooting fireworks.

Matt Thomas
Safety Coordinator



How to reach us

24-Hour Service: (888) 546-4243

Automated payment: (877) 934-9491

Report an outage: (888) 655-4243

bgenergy.com

Headquarters

P.O. Box 990
1201 Lexington Road
Nicholasville, KY 40340-0990

District Offices

P.O. Box 730
327 Sea Biscuit Way
Cynthiana, KY 41031-0730

P.O. Box 150
1200 Versailles Road
Lawrenceburg, KY 40342-0150

P.O. Box 276
2099 Berea Road
Richmond, KY 40476-0276

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Published monthly by Blue Grass Energy
as a service to our members.

Rachel Settles, Editor



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President's message (continued)

afforded by our local co-op, I hope you will never take for granted the sacrifices of others that make America the great country we enjoy.

We are once again honoring those who protect our liberties through service in the armed forces by sponsoring Honor Flight. This is the seventh year we have joined with Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives to fly war veterans to Washington, D.C.

I invite you to join us at Blue Grass Airport in Lexington on Saturday, Sept. 16, to personally express your appreciation to these deserving veterans.

I wish each of you a safe and happy Independence Day!

Each year, Blue Grass Energy chooses a charity to work with for the year. We partner with a local nonprofit organization that benefits the communities in which we live and serve. Our fundraising efforts for the entire year go to that cause. This year, we are partnering with Make-A-Wish. We are excited about the opportunity of making wishes come true for some of our youngest members.

Brenton, 11

I wish to go to Hawaii

"It was top-to-bottom amazing, every second of it..."

Eleven-year-old Brenton won't allow his battle with liver cancer to suppress his thirst for knowledge and adventure! When he isn't playing sports or video games, Brenton is busy learning all he can about history, especially Pearl Harbor.

There was no hesitation when Brenton was asked to choose his heartfelt wish. His love of history—and beaches—led his mind straight to the sunny shores of the beautiful Aloha State. Brenton wished to go to Hawaii.

Over spring break, his wish was granted, and very quickly, Brenton's wish to experience the history of Hawaii became an adventure where he and his family made a little history of their own.

"Brenton was treated like a celebrity from the time we were picked up from our home to the time we returned just as he wished," remarked Brenton's dad.

Brenton and his family didn't waste a single moment. They experienced a submarine ride, enjoyed a dinner cruise, took a tour of Kualoa Ranch, and snorkeled alongside some beautiful exotic fish at Hanauma Bay. Of course, Brenton also enjoyed seeing his Pearl Harbor history lessons come to life as he visited the sites he'd only previously been able to read about.

Brenton's dad shared, "It really was as breathtaking and amazing as we all imagined it would be!"

