

# CONNECTIONS



WREC MEMBER NEWSLETTER



**HOUSING FOR VETERANS – Affordable housing coming to Pasco County.** In June, Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative (WREC) was proud to host the groundbreaking ceremony for the first ever Veterans Housing Community by the Pasco County Housing Authority at Magnolia Oaks. WREC, Congressman Gus Bilirakis, Commissioner Ron Oakley, Commissioner Seth Weightman, Commissioner Lisa Yeager, Savannah Sipsy, the Regional Director at the Office of U.S. Senator Marco Rubio, Pasco County Housing Authority, and others came to this groundbreaking ceremony to support our veterans. Magnolia Oaks is being built on 9.8-acres at 7338 Massachusetts Blvd.



It will include 77 townhouse units designed to house low-income and disabled veterans and their families. Centrally located in Pasco County, the complex is within four miles of a newly constructed veterans' medical center. The project will include 34 one-bedroom units, 33 two-bedroom units and 10 three-bedroom units, a community building and a swimming pool. The facility will also be designed to provide on-site support services. "We at WREC are



incredibly excited to host and support the Veterans Housing Project," said David Lambert, General Manager of WREC and Chairman of the Pasco County Housing Authority board. "This initiative is a testament to our commitment to giving back to our community, and it is a true honor to play a part in providing housing for our veterans." Construction began shortly after this ceremony.

## Energy Saving Tips



Efficiently conserving energy within your home is simpler than you might think. Be mindful of turning lights off when leaving a room. Harness the brilliance of natural sunlight by opening your blinds during daytime hours. For office equipment, consider plugging them into a power strip for effortless shutdowns when not in use.

**Hernando County Services** Director Chris Linsbeck presented a thank-you sign to WREC's General Manager David Lambert for their heartfelt commitment to the community. In collaboration with Florida Drilling and GeoPoint's resources, WREC donated several poles and LED light fixtures to illuminate the remaining unlit ball fields at Ernie Weaver Park. Without the generosity of WREC employees volunteering their time to install the poles and light fixtures, this wouldn't have been possible. WREC is deeply committed to enriching the communities we serve and is honored to be a part of this commitment. (Photo below)



# Power Outage Notifications

Did you know WREC offers its Members Power Outage Notifications? Hurricane season is here! Power Outage Notifications are an important and free addition that can save our Members time and worry during a storm or outage event. While our linemen work to repair an outage, you will be informed and kept up-to-date as to when the outage occurred and when it is restored. Signing up is easy through **SmartHub™**, available on **wrec.net** or Members can sign up for notifications on the **SmartHub™** app on their smart device. When signing up, Members can choose to receive a text, email, or both should an outage situation arise at their account location. The **SmartHub™** app is a great tool for this and many other notifications. If you haven't signed up yet, please consider adding one or more of the four types of notifications offered: **Planned Power Outage**, **Power Outage**, **Power Outage ETR** (Estimated Time of Restore) and **Power Outage Restored**. All of these valuable outage notifications are designed to keep you informed if the lights should go out.



## Cyber Safe Corner

Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA), sometimes referred to as 2-Factor Authentication (2FA), is one of the easiest ways to immediately make your accounts more secure.



## Pet Electrical Safety Tips

- Block pets access to electrical cords.
- Spray deterrent to discourage chewing.
- Give them plenty of toys and play time.
- Keep multiple cables apart to prevent your pets from getting entangled.



## STORM SAFETY KIT



Learn more:  Safe Electricity.org®



## DID YOU KNOW

THE WREC EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION AWARDS 110 SCHOLARSHIPS WORTH \$12,000 EACH TO DEPENDENTS OF WREC MEMBERS EACH YEAR!



# DOWNLOAD THE SMARTHUB™ APP TODAY AND ACCESS YOUR WREC ACCOUNT 24/7/365



For Apple



For Android

WREC's SmartHub™ app allows you to manage your account at your fingertips and on the go from anywhere. Once you download the app, register and log in, you can view your account, billing history, pay your bill, check your usage and view our outage map. **SmartHub™** allows you to sign up for automatic notifications on power outages and billing items or contact us if you are experiencing an issue or have an inquiry. You can also sign up for programs such as auto pay or **Operation Round-Up**, which rounds up your bill to the nearest dollar to help fellow Members who have had a catastrophic event at no fault of their own.

With cyber security being an issue on the forefront, we are happy to share that **SmartHub™** has a **Two-Factor Authentication** option. This option will add a level of security to the platform by sending a code to you via email or text to confirm your identity when trying to access your account. **Two-Factor Authentication** can be set up by logging into your account and selecting **Settings, Security** and then **Two-Factor Authentication** and following the prompts.

**SmartHub™** puts you in charge of your account. If you do not use **SmartHub™**, we suggest that you download the app to register and enjoy the benefits 24/7/365, yet another way we strive to empower our Members and help make their lives easier.

*Coming  
Soon*

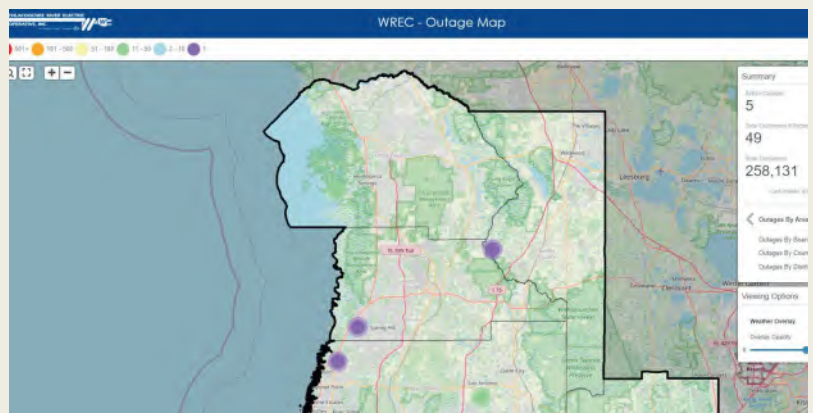
*Keep an eye out for our new mobile app! It will offer all of the same features as the SmartHub™ app, but with a fresh new look and feel under the "WREC" brand!*



## OUTAGE MAP VIEWER

WREC offers an **Outage Map** that is live and updated continuously. Once an outage is reported, it will appear on the map.

You can view outages at any time by selecting the **Outage Center** tab at the top of our website home screen at [wrec.net](http://wrec.net) or in the **SmartHub™** app by logging in and clicking **Outage Map** at the top.



## Streetlight Out?

To report an inoperative or malfunctioning streetlight, please call your local cooperative office, or log on to [wrec.net](http://wrec.net) and click on the 'Repair Street Light' button (or scan the QR code), then complete and submit the Street Light Repair Request Form. You can also download the SmartHub™ app and request a street light repair.



Scan to Report

### LOCAL WREC NUMBERS

PASCO: Billy E. Brown Corporate Center: 352-567-5133

One Pasco Center District Office: 352-588-5115

New Tampa/Wesley Chapel: 813-979-9732

Bayonet Point District Office: 727-868-9465

Land O' Lakes/Odessa: 813-972-9233

CITRUS: Crystal River District Office: 352-795-4382

Dunnellon: 352-489-6818

HERNANDO: West Hernando District Office: 352-596-4000

POLK: One Pasco Center District Office: 863-687-4396

SUMTER: Bushnell: 352-793-7813

## Stay in the Know

Be sure to follow us on our social media platforms.



Scan to visit [wrec.net](http://wrec.net)

## ELECTRICAL BACKFEEDING

### GENERATOR SAFETY

When a generator is connected to the home circuit and started up to supply power, and the home is still connected by lines to the grid, power will flow through the main breaker, back to the meter base panel, to the transformer and then energize power lines in your neighborhood. This reversal of flow is called "backfeeding" and can be very dangerous.

The safest way to use a generator is always to plug appliances directly into the generator. You can also get a licensed electrician to install a transfer switch, which prevents the generator power to backfeed into powerlines.

Another primary danger from generators is carbon monoxide poisoning. Always read and follow all safety features in the generator Owner's Manual.



CONNECTIONS is published by:

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Your Board of Trustees meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Corporate Office in Dade City to conduct the business of the Cooperative and its subsidiaries. LEGAL NOTICE: Operation Round-Up is a registered trade name for WRECares. 100% of all contributions are available for disbursement. Registration #SC-02353. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free from within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state. 1-800-435-7352.

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