

## Inside: Learn How To ...

Go on a Free Trip  
to D.C.

Be Safe with Holiday  
Lighting

Enter the Holiday  
Coloring Contest

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# PowerLines

FOR YOU SANTA!

**Wishing you peace, joy and all the best the holiday has to offer. May this season of giving and spending time with family bring you joy that lasts throughout the year.**

## What's Next?

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

What's next? I ask this question all the time. For those of you who are regular readers of my articles you know the importance I place on continuous, incremental improvement, strategic planning, and taking actions with intent. So as we make changes and improvements I am always asking, "What's next?" This can be very effective in helping us move forward and keeping us on track. However, it is not without its pitfalls.

One of the standing jokes I have with some staff members is I am recreationally challenged. (Remember they didn't know me in my misspent youth.) At least part of the reason for this is I really enjoy the process of working and the work associated with my position. What's the old saying? "If you love what you do, you'll never work a day in your life." Even with my boys, I have tried to instill in them a certain work ethic and a desire to do things as well as they are capable. Like most parents, I am hopeful they can learn from my mistakes instead of making the same ones. With that in mind, I have told them to enjoy the effort and the process but, spend a little time recognizing the moments of success or progress before moving on to the next step.

Thank goodness I have great people around me who remind me of the importance of recognizing what has been accomplished. I am quick to ask, "what's next?" and can sometimes forget to recognize success and, by

doing so, might give the impression it wasn't good enough. Our employees do great work, give outstanding effort and achieve amazing results. In this age of trophies for participation, our employees should get one for winning. Our recent organizational structure review, and now implementation, is an excellent example. The entire team embraced the idea of improving, put personal agendas aside and created a plan to make our next phase better than our last. The implementation is underway and is already realizing those benefits.

As we prepare our budget and work plan for 2017 and update our strategic plan for the next three years, let me take a moment to recognize the outstanding year that has been 2016. We experienced several challenges but maintained our efforts and Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) had an excellent year. On behalf of the board of directors and employees here at CEC, I want to thank you all for the part you play in our cooperative's success and wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas!



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"On behalf of the board of directors and employees here at CEC, I want to thank you all for the part you play in our cooperative's success and wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas!"

Matt Boshaw, CEO & general manager

## CEC's Photo Contest Winners

Thank you to everyone who participated in our 2016 Photo Contest! We started with 45 entries, and with the help of all of you voters, the three winning photos were chosen. Watch for information on our 2017 Photo Contest in your spring Power Lines newsletters.



First Place: Freedom Falls, taken by Ann Rondinelli of Seneca



Second Place: Promises, taken by Cindy Lindey of Slippery Rock



Third Place: Evening Storm, taken by Jim Parkes of Emlenton

## Free Trip to D.C.!



High school juniors! Join 1,500 students on Youth Tour and meet legislators, sightsee and more! Contact for more information. Apply by Feb. 3.

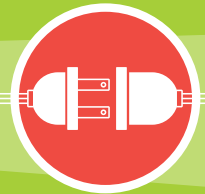
**800-521-0570**  
**[www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop)**

## HOLIDAY LIGHTING SAFETY TIPS



Consider purchasing LED holiday lights; they are cool to the touch and more energy efficient than incandescent bulbs.

Test holiday lights by connecting each strand before hanging them.



Make sure there are no broken bulbs or damaged or frayed cords. Discard any defective strands.

Use holiday lights that include the Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) label.

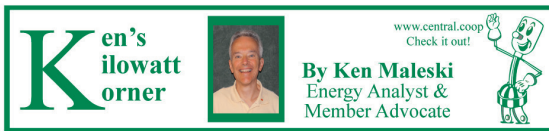


Avoid resting bulbs on tree needles and branches. Try using a clip to keep the bulbs upright.

Do not overload electrical outlets or extension cords.



Turn off all indoor and outdoor holiday lighting before leaving the house or going to bed.



## Holiday Energy Savings



The holiday season is generally a big time for energy use, but it doesn't have to be. Here are some ways to save energy (and money) during the holidays.

- Switch to LED Christmas lights.
- Choose fiber-optic decorations.
- Use timers to limit the time decorations are on.
- Turn room lights off when tree is lit.
- Decorate with candles.
- Turn the thermostat down when you have guests.

- Purchase gifts that don't use electricity.
- Invest in rechargeable batteries.
- Buy Energy Star appliances.
- Bake several dishes at a time.
- Wash clothes in cold water.
- Use crock pots instead of oven.
- Use power strips to reduce phantom loads.

By being conscious of, and reducing, your energy consumption, you can enjoy the holidays without worrying about future energy bills.

**Give yourself a gift! Sign up for weekly energy saving "E-Tips" by emailing Ken at [kmaleski@central.coop](mailto:kmaleski@central.coop).**

# SAFETY MATTERS

## Holiday Safety

The holidays are a time to celebrate with family and friends and to reflect on what is important. Here are some holiday tips to make sure you are able to attend all of those holiday dinners.

- Wash your hands often and always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when your cough or sneeze.
- Eat healthy and stay active. With balance and moderation you can enjoy your holiday parties without feeling guilty. Keeping active no matter the season will help keep your immune system in check and prevent seasonal depression.
- Stay warm. Cold temperatures can cause serious health problems. Stay dry and dress in layers.
- Get regular checkups and vaccinations. Your

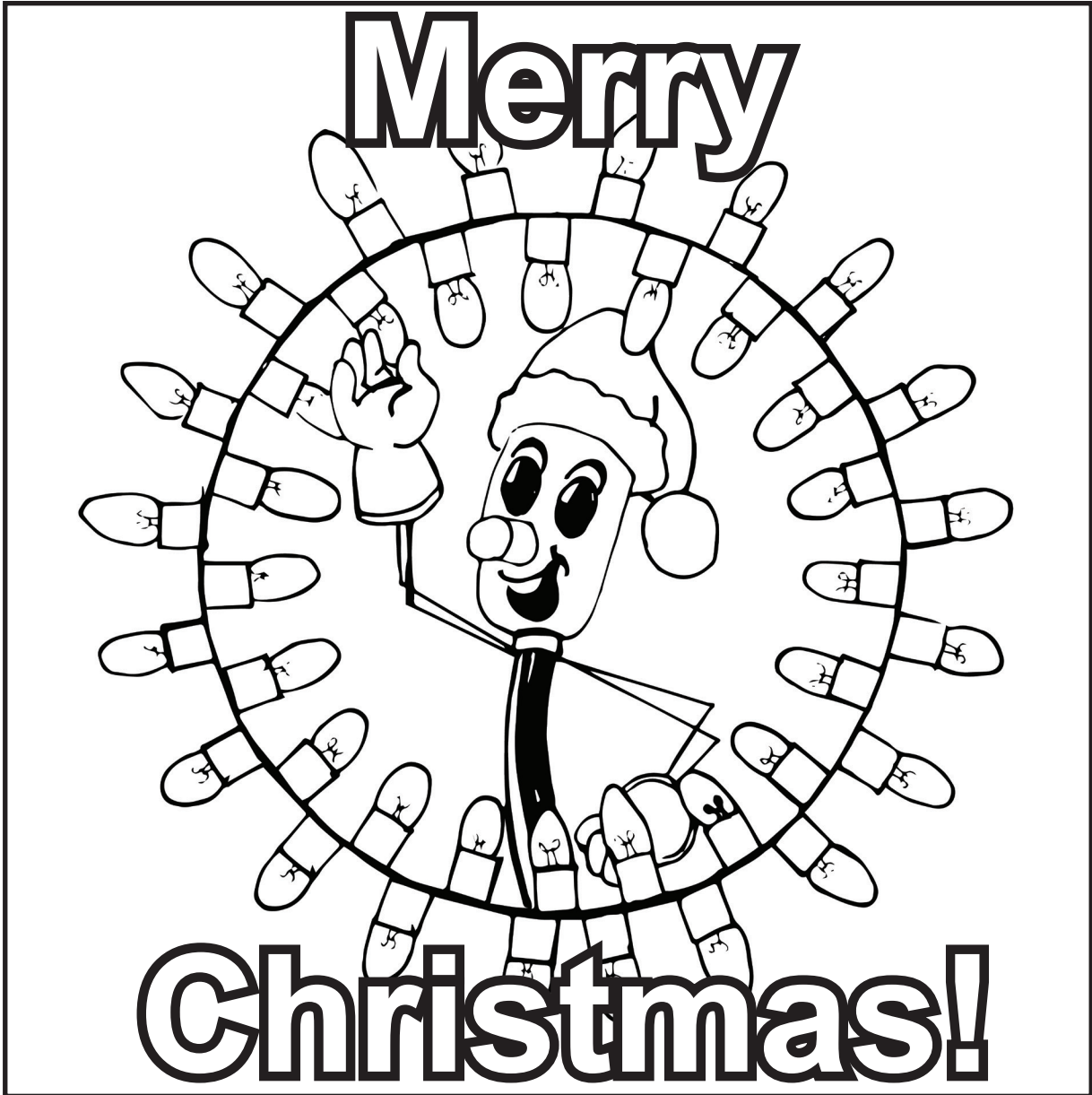
health care provider can recommend vaccinations based on age, lifestyle, travel plans, and medical history.

- Manage stress and get plenty of rest.
- Travel safely. Wear your seat belt, use a proper safety seat for children, beware of changing road conditions and don't drink and drive.
- Keep an eye on children. Toys and candy can be potential choking hazards. Make sure toys are used properly and promote safe behaviors.
- Prevent injuries. Changing weather conditions and the holiday rush can lead to injury. Use step ladders when hanging decorations, never leave fireplaces and candles unattended, and test smoke detector and carbon monoxide detectors in your home.



## Holiday Coloring Contest

Hey kids! Enter our Holiday Coloring Contest for a chance to win a prize! Deadline is Jan. 13, 2017. The contest is open to CEC members' children and grandchildren ages 5-12. The following groups will be judged together: ages 5-7, 8-10 and 11-12. CEC employees' children and grandchildren are ineligible. Mail entry to: Central Electric Cooperative, Attn: Holiday Coloring Contest, P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Account: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Recipe of the Month

### Cranberry Bread

#### Ingredients:

- 2 cups unbleached flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 1-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 large orange
- 2 tablespoons shortening
- 1 egg, well-beaten
- 1 cup nuts, chopped
- 1 cup raw cranberries, halved

**Directions:** Heat oven to 350 degrees. Sift together flour, sugar, baking powder and soda, and salt. In a separate bowl squeeze the juice and grate the rind of the orange. Add shortening and enough boiling water to make 3/4 cup juice. Add egg. Blend liquid and dry ingredients. Stir until flour is dampened. Add nuts and cranberries. Pour into greased loaf pan. Bake for 60-70 minutes (30 minutes for muffins).

*Thank you to Maureen Maleski  
for submitting this recipe!*

**Send in your recipes to be shared today!**

**Send Recipes to:**

Renee Tritten at [rtritten@central.coop](mailto:rtritten@central.coop) or mail to CEC,  
716 Route 368, PO Box 329, Parker, PA 16049

## CEC Management Team

Matthew P. Boshaw  
*CEO & General Manager*

Dennis W. Beggs  
*Director of Finance and  
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Christopher W. Kossman  
*Director of Information Technology*

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## Read Power Lines and Win!

Last Issue's Winner:

**Jason Theuret of Rimersburg**

Last Issue's E-Winner:

**Lauren Early of Harrisville**

Read Power Lines and win! It's simple — you can win a \$25 credit on your monthly electric bill by completing and returning the quiz below. And you have a second chance at another \$25 bill credit by submitting a quiz online at [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop).

If you do not have access to the Internet, indicate that on the quiz and we will also enter you in the online drawing. Just complete, clip and enclose the quiz and personal information below and return it with your monthly payment. For quiz rules visit [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop).

**1. True or False:** Keeping active in all seasons helps keep your immune system in check and prevent seasonal depression.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. True or False:** Using a crock pot instead of the oven saves you energy (and money).

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. True or False:** The CEC team created a plan to make the next phase better than the last.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**How are we doing?** (no wrong answer)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Acct. #:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Central Electric Cooperative**

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