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Enter Our Holiday
Coloring Contest!

How to Safely Use
Space Heaters

“Watts” Inside

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**May your world be filled with warmth, joy
and good cheer this holy season.
Wishing you and your family a Merry
Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

Better

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

What's next? I ask this question all the time. These days, that question could be taken negatively, as in what else could possibly happen. But, for those of you who regularly read 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 keep us on track. We always strive to be better today than we were yesterday.

One of the standing jokes I have with some staff members is that I am recreationally challenged — they didn't know me in my misspent youth. Part of the reason for this is I really enjoy the process and the work. What's the old saying? If you love what you do, you'll never work a day in your life. Our work can be extremely cyclic, so the constant drive to improve and be better guards against complacency. The danger that comes from continuously looking to what is next, is we can sometimes not adequately recognize what has been accomplished.

Thank goodness I have great people around me that 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 the 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 strive to be better.

As we prepare our budget and work plan for 2022 and update our strategic plan for the next three years, let me take a moment to recognize the outstanding year 2021 has been. I don't mean 2021 was a great year. Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) and the entire world continued to face unprecedented challenges throughout 2021. It seems every day brought a new concern. What I mean, is the unprecedented challenges provided unprecedented opportunities for our employees and members to meet those challenges.

We have been able to work together to keep our employees and membership safe, healthy and available while maintaining the essential service we provide. It has been a difficult period, but something this important should be difficult. It makes our results that much more satisfying. Together, we made things better.

We will continue to strive to be better tomorrow than we are today. 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!

“It has been a difficult period, but something this important should be difficult. It makes our results that much more satisfying. Together, we made things better.”

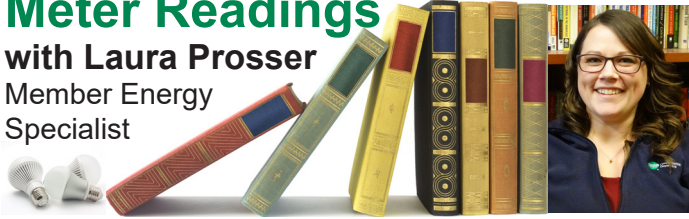
Matt Boshaw, CEO & General Manager



Meter Readings

with **Laura Prosser**

Member Energy
Specialist



Whether you've already decked your halls or you're just getting started, there's still time to incorporate energy savings into your holiday décor.

If you haven't strung your lights, be sure to use LED light strands. LEDs consume far less energy than incandescent lights and can last 40 holiday seasons. They're also safer because they're made with epoxy lenses, not glass, making them resistant to breaking — and they're cool to the touch.

If you missed Santa's memo about energy - saving LEDs and your holiday lights are already up, you can still save on lighting costs. All you need is a programmable light timer. With a light timer, you can easily program when you want your holiday lights turned on and off, which will save you time, money and energy. If you're using a timer for exterior lighting, make sure it's weatherproof and intended for outdoor use.

If Clark Griswold's décor style is a bit much for

Deck the Halls – Efficiently

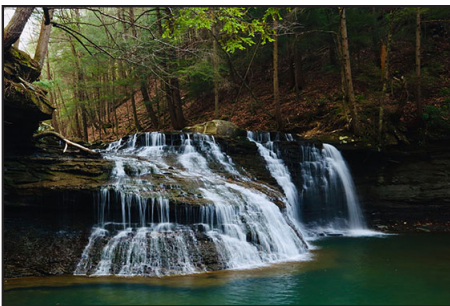
your taste, consider a more natural approach. Add some winter greenery and install solar-powered spotlights to illuminate your home. Solar spotlights vary in price, but many affordable options are available at hardware stores and online — and because they run on natural energy from the sun, there's no additional cost to your energy bill.



Deck the halls
with LED holiday
lights.

CEC's Photo Contest Winners

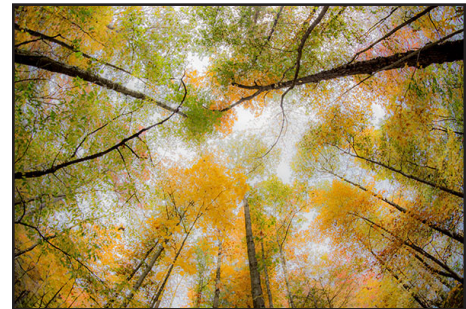
Thank you to everyone who participated in our 2021 Photo Contest! We started with 41 entries and with the help of over 1,600 votes, the three winning photos were chosen. Watch for information on our 2022 Photo Contest in your spring Power Lines newsletters or on our website. Congratulations to our winners!



First Place: Falls, Cindy Baron of Sarver



Second Place: Nature's Beauty, Leann Felmlee-Brown of Cranberry



Third Place: Autumn's Canopy, Carol Kruth of Saxonburg



The Safety Linke



Don't be a stranger, to electrical danger.

Fire Prevention: Home Heating



Manager of Safety
& Loss Control

Dylan Linke

The winter season is now upon us, bringing colder temperatures and potentially more time spent inside. Did you know that auxiliary heating sources are the second leading cause of home fires?

In recent years, heating equipment was the cause of 62,200 reported U.S. home structure fires, with 670 deaths, 1,550 injuries and \$909 million in direct property damage. Nearly half of all home heating fires occur in December, January and February.

Portable space heaters are responsible for almost one-third of all home heating fires and three-fourths of all deaths. The main reason — heating equipment was placed too close to combustible items (things that can burn), such as furniture, rugs, clothing, window treatments, mattresses and bedding.

Let's talk about preventing fires both at work and home. If you utilize a portable space heater this winter, ensure you follow these safety tips:

- Keep heaters at least three feet away from anything that can easily catch fire.
- Don't put heaters near drapes, furniture and other flammable materials.
- Place the heater on a level surface and away from high traffic areas to avoid knocking it over.
- It is never recommended to use an extension cord to power an auxiliary heat source and it should be plugged directly into a GFCI outlet, unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer.
- Never leave a space heater unattended or running while you sleep.
- Keep electric heaters away from water. Never use them near a sink or in the bathroom.

For information about safely using other types of space heaters, please visit www.nfpa.org.

CEC Line Clearing to Improve System Reliability

CEC will begin tree trimming on Jan. 1, 2022, to reduce outages and service interruptions caused by trees. Contracted line clearing crews will work on circuits originating from Coalhill and Wildcat (Rimersburg), High Rock and Four Winds (Starr), Beaver, Lucinda and Karns City substations in Clarion, Forest and Butler counties. This project will last throughout 2022.

CEC will utilize Hazlett Tree Service, Davey

Tree Service, Pittman Tree Service and Wright Tree Service. CEC members may encounter contracted crews. All contractors carry company issued identification.

CEC respects property owners' rights and will complete the work as quickly and professionally as possible. If you have any questions, please contact CEC's Forestry Supervisor, Brice Stewart at 800-521-0570 x2210.



Holiday Coloring Contest

Hey kids! Enter our Holiday Coloring Contest for a chance to win a prize! The deadline is Jan. 14, 2022. 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.



Child's Name: _____ Age: _____ CEC Account #: _____

Member's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Recipe of the Month

Almond Skillet Cookies

Ingredients:

- 1-1/2 sticks butter
- 1-1/2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1-1/2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 1/4 cup sliced almonds

Directions:

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Line a 10-inch, oven-safe skillet with heavy duty foil or parchment paper — allowing plenty of excess to lift the cookies out after baking. Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs one at a time. Beat in flour, salt and almond extract. Pour batter into skillet. Top with sliced almonds and bake for 35-40 minutes. Using the excess skillet liner, lift cookies out to cool on a rack. Peel off the liner and cut into narrow wedges to serve.

*Thank you to Margaret Boyer
for submitting this recipe!*

CEC Management Team

Matthew P. Boshaw
CEO & General Manager

Chester Conti
Director of Finance and
Accounting/CFO

Christopher W. Kossman
Director of Information Technology

Stephanie Deal
Director of Human Resources

Fred E. Terwilliger
Assistant General Manager/COO

Lisa A. Hoover
Director of Member Services

Read Power Lines and Win!

Last Issue's Winner:

Nancy M. Delo of Kennerdell

Last Issue's E-Winner:

Melodie Curran of Knox

Read Power Lines for a chance to win a \$25 credit on your monthly electric bill by completing and returning the quiz below. You can also have a chance at another \$25 bill credit by submitting a quiz online at www.central.coop.

If you don't have access to the Internet, indicate that on the quiz and we'll also enter you in the online drawing. Just complete and enclose the quiz and personal information below and return it with your monthly payment.

1. True or False: Programmable light timers can save you time, money and energy.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: Over 1,600 members voted for the 2021 Photo Contest winners.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: Space heaters don't cause home heating fires.

Answer: _____

How are we doing? (no wrong answer)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Acct. #: _____



Central Electric Cooperative

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716 Route 368, P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049

Newsletter Editor: Kessa Stydinger