

## Inside: Learn How To ...

Apply for a Bright  
Ideas Teacher Grant

Receive Federal  
Energy Tax Credits

## “Watts” Inside

Planting Safety	3
Bright Ideas Teacher Grants	3
2016 Coloring Contest Winners	4
Federal Energy Tax Credits	4
2016 Year-End Report	5
Garlic Parmesan Pull Apart Bread Recipe	6

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# PowerLines

2014 Photo Contest Entry  
Photographer: Carol Kruth of Saxonburg

## It's a Movement

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

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*It's a Movement / Page 2*

## *It's a Movement /From Page 1*

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Matt Boshaw, CEO & general manager

# SAFE Y MATTERS

## Planting Safety

Did you know that tree limbs and branches are among the most common causes of power outages? By selecting the right tree and planting it in the right place, you can help reduce power outages for you and your neighbors.

- **Find the right tree.** Trees come in all shapes and sizes and often change dramatically over their lifetimes. Before selecting your tree, make sure you know how tall and wide the tree and its roots can grow.
- **Choose the right spot.** Where you plant your tree is just as important as what type of tree you plant. Shade may be a priority, but you must also think about how your tree will impact its surroundings, especially electric utility lines.
- **Plan for future growth.** Tall trees growing

under or near power lines will eventually require pruning or removal. When planting large trees, plant at least 30 feet from power lines; plant 20 feet away for medium trees.

- **Work safely and hire safely.** Whether you're planting a tree or doing yard work, stay far away from power lines at all times. Always look up and note the location of the power lines, especially when using tools, ladders, poles or pruning saws. Never attempt to trim any vegetation growing near power lines.



**Contact CEC if you have vegetation growing near power lines.**

## Bright Ideas Teacher Grants!

The Bright Ideas Teacher Grants Program sponsors innovative, energy-related learning projects that go beyond available school funding. Teachers, K-12, from schools within Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Forest and Venango counties are eligible. Schools do not need to receive electric service from CEC. Home school teachers are also welcome to apply. The maximum teacher grant will be \$1,000 per award period and will be given to the school (or individually awarded to home school teachers).

Topics must be energy related, directly involve students and have clearly defined and measurable goals. Topics may include renewable energy, energy generation, energy use, efficiency, conservation, safety, and what is an electric cooperative.

Applications will be judged on innovation and creativity. Bright Ideas Teacher Grants illustrate one more way CEC supports our local area with the Cooperative Difference.

For more information and for grant guidelines and selection criteria please visit [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop) or call 800-521-0570 x2133.



## Congratulations to Our 2016 Coloring Contest Winners!



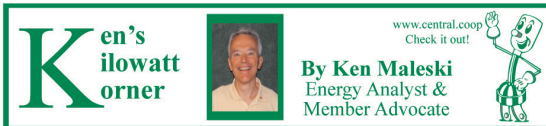
Teagan Lederman, age 7,  
of Warrenville



Danica Ball, age 9,  
of Chicora



Archer Ferris, age 12,  
of Emlenton



Like it or not, tax time is upon us again. The good news is if you made certain energy efficiency improvements to your primary or principle residence between Jan. 1, 2011 and Dec. 31, 2016, you may be entitled to a federal tax credit. New construction or rentals do not qualify. Insulation and roofing improvements receive a 10 percent tax credit on material costs only (labor not included). The following improvements receive a specific dollar amount credit between \$50 and \$300:

- Biomass stoves.
- Air-source heat pumps.
- Central air conditioners.
- Gas, propane or oil furnaces.
- Gas, propane or oil boilers.
- Water heaters (excludes solar).
- Advanced blower systems.

A 30 percent tax credit is available on the total installed cost (labor included) for the following

## Federal Energy Tax Credits

items through Dec. 31, 2016:

- Geothermal heat pumps.
- Small wind turbines (residential).
- Solar energy systems (tax credits for solar energy systems are available at 30 percent through Dec. 31, 2019).

The federal government requires all qualifying heating and cooling improvements to meet certain energy efficiency standards. AHRI (Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration Institute) is the gold standard energy efficiency rating agency. Ask your heating and cooling contractor to supply you with your equipment's AHRI certification label or contact the equipment manufacturer. AHRI certification documents are not required for tax filing submission, but should be kept by the homeowner for a possible tax audit.

For more information on energy tax credits visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) or contact a qualified tax adviser.

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

## 2016 CEC Year-End Report

In 2016, CEC continued providing safe, reliable electricity at a reasonable cost to its member-owners, was committed to the communities it serves, and dedicated to the Cooperative Difference.

### Member Benefits

Last year members received:

- \$1,582,876 in capital credits.
- 171 Energy Star appliance rebates totaling more than \$10,000.
- Assistance in paying electric bills. Through the generosity of its members, CEC's Family Fund helped 153 families in need pay electric bills during the heating season.

### Reliable Service

Reliability and timely power restoration continued to be areas of emphasis in 2016. The cooperative continues to maintain its lines. Last year CEC:

- Made major improvements across its territory.
- Replaced 3,438 meters with new technology.
- Inspected 5,176 poles.
- Cleared 314 miles of rights-of-way.

### Quality Service

New technologies again played a big part in member satisfaction. In 2016 CEC:

- Continued utilizing SmartHub, which provides convenient account access and two-way

communication to members online or via mobile devices to manage payments, notify member services representatives of account and service issues, check usage and more.

- Increased electronic payment processing to half of all payments received, which is convenient for members and saves on processing costs.

### Rates

In 2016 CEC retail electric rates increased by 5 percent to cover increasing distribution costs.

### Community

CEC continued its commitment to the communities it serves. In 2016 CEC:

- Sent four students on Youth Tour, where they made lifetime memories and learned about government and cooperatives.
- Awarded 15 students the Good Neighbor Scholarship of \$2,000 each.

### Annual Meeting of the Members

At the cooperative's 79th annual meeting, almost 1,000 members and guests attended, and re-elected Richard Weaver, representing Clarion County and Ken Durrett representing Butler County to its board of directors. CEC encourages members to attend this year's 80th Anniversary Annual Meeting of the Members Friday, Aug. 25, 2017.

## Save The Date: CEC's 80th Annual Meeting!

Join us for our Annual Meeting of the Members Friday, Aug. 25, 2017 at Whitehall Camp & Conference Center in Emlenton. Attendees will receive a Kentucky Fried Chicken meal, live entertainment, a bill-credit voucher and a chance to win a number of great prizes! Children are also encouraged to attend and will enjoy a variety of activities and prizes specifically for them!

For more information please visit [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop) or call 800-521-0570.

## Recipe of the Month

### Garlic Parmesan Pull Apart Bread

#### Ingredients:

- 1 can of refrigerated biscuits
- 1/2 stick butter
- 3 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning

**Directions:** Heat oven to 350 degrees. Throw cold butter in a bundt pan and let it melt in preheating oven. Cut the biscuits into quarters. In a bowl, toss the biscuit pieces, garlic, seasoning and cheese together. Once the butter melts, add the biscuit mixture, sprinkling with anything left in bowl. Bake for 20-22 minutes or until golden brown. Turn out on a dish and enjoy!

*Thank you to Kathleen Williams  
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  
Accounting/CFO

Christopher W. Kossman  
Director of Information Technology

Stephanie Deal  
Director of Human Resources

Christina J. O'Donnell  
Director of Communication and  
Public Relations

Lisa A. Hoover  
Director of Member Services

Fred E. Terwilliger  
Assistant General Manager/COO

## Read Power Lines and Win!

Last Issue's Winner:

**Jane Baker of Harrisville**

Last Issue's E-Winner:

**Donald Saeler of Fenelton**

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:** Certain energy efficiency improvements to your primary residence can entitle you to a federal tax credit.

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

**2. True or False:** Energy-related project grants are available to schools within CEC's territory.

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

**3. True or False:** When planting trees you should plant them at least 20 feet away from power lines.

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

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

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