

**Inside:
Learn How To ...**

Attend the Town Hall Meeting

Save Money with the U\$X Federal Credit Union

“Watts” Inside

- Preparing for Storms and Construction 1-3
- You're Invited to CEC's Town Hall Meeting 3
- ACRE Update 4
- Anti-Texting Law Goes Into Effect 5
- Boiled Spice Cake Recipe 6

Board of Directors

Margery S. Terwilliger
President

Jody P. Weaver
Vice President

Althea M. Smith
Secretary/Treasurer

Kenneth Durrett
William J. Eichner
Robert F. Sterrett
Bette D. Walters
Richard L. Weaver



PowerLines

Preparing for Storms and Construction

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

Now that March is upon us, so is the beginning of the spring thunderstorm season. According to the American Red Cross, lightning from thunderstorms kills more people each year than tornadoes or hurricanes. As spring arrives, make sure you're prepared to handle storms that come with the changing season. Consider these tips to help you stay safe.

Stay away from downed power lines. Television movies are sometimes misleading. I'm not talking about the fact that vampires and werewolves aren't real (spoiler alert for you "Twilight" fans), I mean in their portrayal of downed electric wires. Often the wires are shown arcing, sparking, jumping and making a lot of noise. While this can be the case, they are more likely to be

laying there quiet and still. Electricity could still be flowing through them. If you can't see both ends of a wire, you should assume that it is energized. Our system is designed to interrupt the power in the case of downed wires but even our highly trained employees test dead and ground wires before working on potentially energized wires. The safest thing to do is report downed wires and any power outage to Central Electric at 1-800-282-8610 immediately.

Hear thunder? Head inside. If you can hear it, you could be in danger from lightning. Stay indoors at least 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder — a recommendation from the National Weather Service. If you're outside and can't seek

Preparing for Storms/Page 2

Preparing for Storms/From Page 1

shelter indoors, avoid high ground water, tall isolated trees, and metal objects like bleachers or fences. For those of you that share my obsession for golf, please take this suggestion especially seriously. Remember in addition to the high ground and isolated trees of the course, you have a bag full of steel or graphite shafted clubs. Some folks think graphite clubs are safer but that is actually not the case they are at least as good a conductor as steel. A Hall of Fame golfer makes an old joke about God's ability to hit a one iron but I wouldn't test that theory.

Unplug your electronics.

Avoid using electrical items and telephones, which can carry power surges. Consider surge suppressors for your electronics especially the more expensive items. They can be an inexpensive way to protect your equipment. Keep in mind that these devices are only able to interrupt surges so many times, so check the manufacturer recommendations and replace them as necessary.

Delay outdoor activities. If conditions are right for a thunderstorm, postpone the baseball game or round of golf and stay inside — it doesn't have to be raining for lightning to strike.

Prepare for power outages.

While we are constantly working to improve the reliability of our electric system, sometimes Mother Nature doesn't cooperate and storms interrupt our service. You might consider an

emergency preparedness kit for power outages or any other emergency event. Suggestions for an emergency preparedness kit:

- Water — one gallon per person, per day;
- Non-perishable food;
- Flashlight;
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio and extra batteries;
- First-aid kit;
- Seven-day medicine supply;
- Copies of personal documents;
- Cell phone with chargers;
- Land-line phone other than a cordless;
- Emergency contact information; and
- Cash.

Along with thunderstorms, spring also brings the construction season. PennDot, county, township, city and utility crews will be working to improve roads and infrastructure throughout our service territory. I mention this because while we all give ourselves extra time to get where we are going in the winter, please consider the same for the construction areas for your safety and that of our employees working in roadside areas. On another construction note, PennDott has informed us that the Parker Bridge on Route 368 leading to our office will be closed to traffic from March 1st through October 26th. While this will have a significant impact on our daily

Preparing for Storms/Page 3

Member Memories:

"I remember when CEC's current headquarters was built in 1941. I was 17 at the time. Most of the work was done by hand and not machines."

Garold Kriebel, members since 1949.

If you have a favorite CEC memory and would like to be considered for this special column, please contact Jessica Brison at 1-800-521-0570 ext. 2173.

Perparing for Storms/From Page 2

operation through employee commute times, access to field work, deliveries, and bank and post office access, we recognize that it will also impact our membership. To minimize that impact, we will maintain the same hours of operation throughout the bridge closure and can offer information regarding alternate routes to our building.

We thank you for your active participation with your cooperative and hope these tips and information help you have a safer and more convenient spring.

CEC's Improving Reliability

As part of CEC's ongoing effort to improve system reliability, line clearing crews will begin line clearing and rights-of-way maintenance operations on electric circuits originating from CEC's Beaver substation.

CEC's contractor, Lewis Tree Service, began work in January 2012. CEC members and others with electric utility rights-of-way on their property may be contacted by Lewis Tree Service representatives or CEC employees. Line maintenance crews access these rights-of-way to perform maintenance and may have personnel and equipment on members' and others' properties at times to perform the work. All Lewis Tree Service representatives and CEC employees carry company-issued identification.

CEC respects property owners' rights and will complete the work required as quickly and professionally as possible.

The project will last several months. CEC will give additional notice when the project is completed. If you have any questions or comments, please contact our office at 1-800-521-0570. We appreciate your patience and cooperation.

You're invited to CEC's Town Hall Meeting

**Wednesday, May 2, 2012
6 – 7:30 p.m.**

**Sandycreek Volunteer
Fire Department Social Hall
624 Congress Hill Road
Franklin, Pa.**

Open discussion/Q&A with
CEC directors and staff.

Light refreshments available.
Please RSVP by April 18, 2012
to Chris Panian x 2171.

Save the Date!

Come join us for CEC's
75-Year-Anniversary Celebration
Saturday, Sept. 29, 2012 at
Whitehall Campgrounds in Emlenton, Pa.
RSVP today! 1-800-521-0570.
More information to come.

Statement of Non Discrimination

Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call toll free 1-866-632-9992 (voice) or 1-800-877-8339 (TDD) or 1-866-377-8642 (relay voice users). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) Update

Your Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) team in Harrisburg remains busy looking out for the interests of rural electric cooperative members. “We are following nearly 200 pieces of legislation, attending hearings regarding bills and meeting with legislators,” reports Steph Okuniewski of ACRE. Of particular importance is the fact that ACRE staff in Harrisburg is actively participating in conversations on the Marcellus Shale impact fee legislation being debated. ACRE is working to make sure that rural communities where drilling is occurring receive most of the proceeds from proposed fees.

ACRE is also keeping a close eye on the redistricting issue. After the census all the legislative districts are reviewed and rearranged to make sure that each citizen has fair representation in their state and federal governments. The State legislature approved a plan, but the State

Supreme Court rejected it, leaving Pennsylvania General Assembly districts status in limbo.



Additionally, House Bill 153 seeking to reduce the number of legislative districts after the 2020 census is currently under consideration in the State House. Rest assured that your ACRE team will work hard making sure rural constituencies continue to have a strong voice and appropriate government representation.

Legislation impacting CEC and other rural cooperatives come in many forms and with many different labels and it takes a team of dedicated professionals to sort through it all to make sure electric cooperatives and rural communities are treated fairly. Join ACRE today and support their efforts to keep your rates reasonable and your service reliable. Call 1-800-521-0570 ext. 2171 and ask Chris Panian for details.

Save Money with U\$X Federal Credit Union

All members and their immediate family members are eligible to join the U\$X Federal Credit Union. Right now auto loan interest rates are as low as 2.75 annual percentage rate. These low rates apply to new models from 2010–2012. There are also great rates for older model years starting at 4.5 annual percentage rate on 2007–2009 models.

Join today and take advantage of this tremendous offer! To get current rate information and learn more about other money saving products and services visit www.usxfc.org, visit the Saxonburg/Sarver office or call 1-888-219-3159.



Ken's 100 watt Corner



By **Ken Maleski**
CEC Consumer
Marketing Representative

www.central.coop
Check it out!



Cool Idea

What consumes energy whether you are at home or away? That's right, your refrigerator/freezer. If your unit was purchased back in the 1990s, it's most likely not very efficient. Replacing it with an ENERGY STAR model could save \$525 in five years.

What type of refrigerator is the most energy efficient? Federal studies show models with the freezer compartment on top consuming less energy. Side-by-side units use the most energy. When shopping for a new model look for one that matches your food space needs.

Bigger is not always better. Retiring that "second refrigerator" and replacing it with one larger unit will save money on your monthly electric bill. Some older units cost close to \$15 a month.

What about stand-alone freezers? Chest freezers use less energy than upright models. New chest models are equipped with rubber-coated storage racks that make it easier to separate and retrieve items.

Since it's tax season invest your income tax refund in a new refrigerator or freezer. You'll earn a great rate of return on your electric bill.

SAFETY

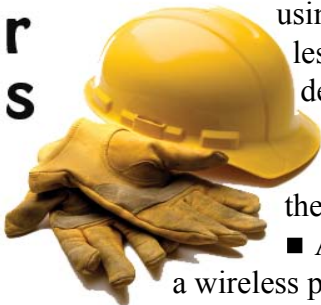
M
A
T
T
E
R
S

Drive Safely: Anti-texting Law

An anti-texting law goes into effect March 8, 2012. The new law makes texting behind the wheel a primary offense, meaning law enforcement can pull over motorists who violate this law.

Anti-texting law facts:

- The law prohibits any driver from using an interactive wireless communication device (IWCD) to send, read or text-based communication while the vehicle is in motion.
- An IWCD is defined as a wireless phone, personal digital



Matt Alderson
Manager of Safety and
Operational Support

assistant, smart phone, portable or mobile computer or similar devices that can be used for texting, instant messaging, emailing or browsing the Internet.

- The fine is \$50 if you are convicted.
- The law does not authorize confiscating the IWCD; and it does not include the use of a GPS device, or a device that is physically or electronically integrated into the vehicle.

Recipe of the Month

Boiled Spice Cake

Ingredients:

- 1-1/2 cups brown sugar, firmly packed
- 1-1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 3 cups water
- 1-1/2 cups shortening
- 3 tsp. ground cloves
- 3 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1 cup chopped walnuts (optional)
- 1-1/2 cups raisins and/or dates (optional)
- 1-1/2 teaspoons salt
- 4-1/2 cups flour (sifted)
- 3 teaspoons baking powder

Vanilla Frosting:

1-1/2 cups powdered sugar, 3 tablespoons shortening,
3/4 teaspoon vanilla, 2 to 3 tablespoons milk

Directions:

1. In saucepan combine the sugars, water, shortening, ground cloves, cinnamon and salt. (optional walnuts, raisins and dates)
2. Bring to a boil and continue to boil for 10 minutes. Remove from heat and let cool. Preheat oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit.
3. Add sifted flour and baking soda. Beat on high for 2 to 3 minutes.
4. Spread batter in greased baking pan and bake for 75 minutes.
5. Turn cake onto dish and drizzle vanilla frosting over top.

Thank you to Sheryl and Ruth Ferguson for submitting the recipe!

Submit your recipe for a chance to win a special prize at the 75-Year-Anniversary Celebration and have your recipe published in "Power Lines."

Send Recipes to:

Jessica Brison at jbrison@central.coop or mail to CEC,
716 Route 368, PO Box 329, Parker, PA 16049

CEC Staff

Matthew P. Boshaw <i>CEO and General Manager</i>	Lisa A. Hoover <i>Director of Consumer Services</i>
Dennis W. Beggs <i>Director of Finance</i>	Christina J. O'Donnell <i>Director of Communication and Marketing</i>
Stephanie Deal <i>Director of Human Resources and Administration</i>	Fred E. Terwilliger <i>Director of Engineering and Operations</i>

Read Power Lines and



Last Issue's Winner:
Glenda Keck of Saxonburg

Read your issue of CEC's Power Lines and win! It's simple — you can win a \$50 credit on your monthly electric bill by reading Power Lines and completing the quiz below.

Complete, clip and enclose the quiz and personal information below and return it with your monthly payment. For quiz rules or a faster entry you may complete the survey online at www.central.coop/quiz.

1. True or False: Water, batteries and cash are all important items to have in your emergency preparedness kit.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: ACRE is currently following five pieces of legislation.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: An anti-texting law goes into effect March 8, 2013.

Answer: _____

How are we doing? (no right/wrong answer)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No: _____ **Account No:** _____



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

716 Route 368 • PO Box 329 • Parker, PA 16049-0329 • www.central.coop
Customer Service 1-800-521-0570 • Emergency Outage Number 1-800-282-8610