

Inside: Learn How To ...

Keep Your Home Safe
This Holiday Season

Enter the Coloring
Contest

“Watts” Inside

Don't Blink 2

Christmas Electrical
Safety List 3

Winter Fire-Safety Tips
for Your Home 3

Photo Contest Winners 4

Holiday Coloring Contest 5

Ho Ho Cake Recipe 6

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PowerLines

To Our Members:

May the joy and love you feel this
Christmas season extend to every day
throughout the year.

Sincerely,
Your Board of Directors and Employees

Don't Blink

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

You might have missed it, but 2014 is coming to a close. Now is a great time to look back at the year past, enjoy the season, holiday, football or hunting — take your pick — and plan for the coming year. This year went by quickly. It seems only yesterday we were hearing the term “polar vortex” for the first time and forecasters are already speculating on next year’s version. My mom did always say that “time flies when you are having fun,” so 2014 must have been a blast!

Well I don't know about the fun part, but we sure have been busy. The volatile weather made our spring and summer busy with outage repair. However, that didn't stop us from completing our planned system maintenance, upgrading facilities and continuing our reliability programs. We have cleared nearly 300 miles of right-of-way, inspected thousands of poles, replaced and upgraded miles of line and increased capacity at four of our substations. These efforts will improve system reliability, redundancy, capacity and safety for years to come. We also implemented new internal systems that allow us to be more efficient in outage restoration, payment processing and communication with our membership. Most recently, we have revised and updated our strategic plan and prepared our budget for the upcoming year. The strategic planning effort ensures that we are aligning our resources — human, technical and financial — to best meet the needs of

our membership. The budget process allows us to review how we have allocated resources in the past year and schedule those resources for the future. We have accomplished this while managing our expenses so that we have had no rate increase since July of 2013. We will begin 2015 with no rate increase as well.

None of these things happen by accident or without the efforts of many people. I always find myself wanting to recognize and thank those people, especially at this time of year. Let me start with you, our members, because none of this is possible without you. We exist because of you, and all of our efforts revolve around the things that you identify as important. Then there is our board, your member representatives, working diligently advocating for you and developing our strategic plan. Our employees assist in the creation of all of the plans and work tirelessly to implement them to keep improving the service we provide. Lastly, there is you again, our members. All of our efforts begin and end with the membership. So let me say thanks once again.

On behalf of all of the employees at Central Electric Cooperative (CEC), I wish you a happy, safe and blessed holiday season.

“We exist because of you (our members) and all of our efforts revolve around the things that you identify as important,”
Matt Boshaw, CEO & General Manager




www.central.coop
Check it out!

By Ken Maleski
Residential Analyst
& Advisor



The Christmas holiday season is not hard to recognize all around us and I am sure you have made your shopping list by now. Here is your electric cooperative's holiday safety list (sorry, no pipers piping on it) to help keep you and your family safe for the season:

- Inspect all electrical decorations for damage before use.
- Do not overload electrical outlets.
- Never connect more than three strings of incandescent lights (consider LED sets).
- Only use decorations that carry the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) certification label.

Christmas Electrical Safety List

- Make sure all outdoor decorations and extension cords are marked for outdoor use.
- Water live trees daily. Keep them at least three feet from heat sources. Artificial trees must be labeled fire resistant.
- Avoid traditional window candles. Instead, use plug-in or battery-operated candles.
- Avoid placing electrical cords under rugs or furniture. Do not fasten wires with nails or staples.
- Turn off, unplug and extinguish all decorations when going to sleep or leaving the house.
- Keep yourself, tools and equipment at least 10 feet from power lines when installing outdoor decorations.

SAFETY

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Winter Fire-Safety Tips for Your Home

The following fire-safety tips can help you maintain a fire-safe home this winter.

Wood Stoves and Fireplaces:

- Be sure the fireplace or stove is installed properly. Wood stoves should have adequate clearance (36") from combustible surfaces.
- Wood stoves should be of good quality, solid construction and design, and should be UL listed.
- Have the chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used for some time.
- Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.



Matt Alderson
Manager of Safety and
Operations Support

Furnace Heating:

- It's important that you have your furnace inspected to ensure that it is in good working condition.
- Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working condition.
- Leave furnace repairs to qualified specialists. Do not attempt repairs yourself.
- Keep trash and other combustibles away from the heating system.
- Check the flue pipe and pipe seams. Are they well supported, free of holes, and cracks? Soot along or around seams may be an indicator of a leak.



CEC's Photo Contest Winners

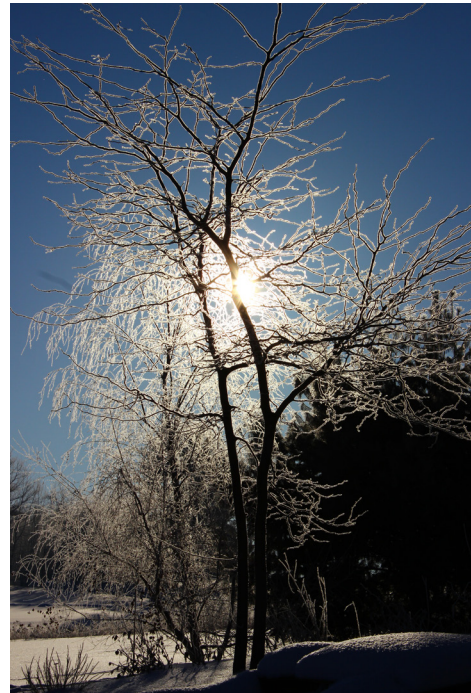
Thank you to everyone who participated in our 2014 Photo Contest! We started with 35 entries and with the help of all of you voters, the three winning photos have been determined. Watch for information on our 2015 Photo Contest in your spring 2015 Power Lines newsletters!



First Place: Hanging Out,
taken by Scott Lessner of Cowansville



Second Place: Fearless Fawn,
taken by Diana Kunselman of Rimersburg



Third Place: 2014 Ice Storm,
taken by Joe Simmons
of Slippery Rock

**Why not give yourself a gift?
Sign up for weekly energy
saving "E-Tips" by
contacting Ken Maleski at
kmaleski@central.coop.**

To Celebrate the Holidays CEC will be Closed:

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, closing at noon
Christmas Day, Dec. 25 (normal hours will
resume Dec. 26)
New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, closing at noon
New Year's Day, Jan. 1 (normal hours will
resume Jan. 2)

Holiday Coloring Contest

Hey kids! Enter our holiday coloring contest for a chance to win a prize! Deadline is Jan. 16, 2015. The contest is open to CEC members' children and grandchildren ages 5–12. The following groups will be judged together: ages 5–7, ages 8–10 and ages 11–12. CEC employees' children and grandchildren are ineligible. Mail entry to: Central Electric Cooperative, Attn: Holiday Coloring Contest, 716 Route 368, P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049.



Name: _____

Age: _____ Account No: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Recipe of the Month

Ho Ho Cake

- 1 box chocolate cake

Cream Filling:

- 2/3 cup milk
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 stick margarine
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1 cup granulated sugar

Chocolate Frosting:

- 1 stick butter
- 3/4 cup cocoa
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3-4 cups powdered sugar
- 1-1/2 teaspoons hot water

Directions:

Prepare cake according to directions on the box. Next, thicken milk and flour over medium heat. Add vanilla and let cool. Beat margarine, shortening and sugar. Add cooled, thickened mixture. Beat well and spread on cooled cake. Next butter and cocoa. Once melted, beat in egg, vanilla, powdered sugar and water. Spread over cream filling.

Thank you to Betty Mertzeis for submitting this recipe!

Send in your recipes to be shared today!

Send Recipes to:

Renee Tritten at 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
CFO, Director of Finance and Accounting

Christopher W. Kossman
Director of Information Technology

Stephanie Deal
Director of Human Resources

Christina J. O'Donnell
Director of Member and Community Relations

Lisa A. Hoover
Director of Member Services

Fred E. Terwilliger
Director of Engineering and Operations

Read Power Lines and Win!

Last Issue's Winner:

Luann Marzullo of Butler

Last Issue's E-Winner:

Tony Dechant of Shippenville

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.

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.

1. True or False: We exist because of you, (our members) and all of our efforts revolve around the things that you identify as important.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: You should never connect more than three strings of incandescent light sets.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: Wood stoves should have a clearance of four feet from combustible surfaces.

Answer: _____

How are we doing? (no wrong answer)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Acct. #:** _____



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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