

Inside: Learn How To ...

Save Money on Your
Holiday Decorating
Energy Bill

Apply for Youth Tour
2016

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Power Lines

May beautiful
moments and
merry memories
surround you with
joy this Christmas.

A “Good” Storm

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

I found myself chastising my oldest son for admiring the beauty and power of one of the many summer thunderstorms that chased through our area earlier this year. Like many of you, I remember the positive memory of standing on a front porch and watching a storm approach and the awe-inspiring sights, sounds, smells and feelings that came with these displays of nature’s power: the deep dark clouds, with a hint of green, contrasted by sunshine on the other side of what seemed like a wall; the fireworks show of lightning and the booming thunder. The clean, fresh smell and decrease in humidity that followed — giving one the impression that things had been reset. These were all just from a summer thunderstorm and didn’t even touch on the power and beauty of a tornado, snow or ice storm.

For many years now, I have found myself less appreciative of the spectacle and wonder of a storm, and more concerned about how our members are affected. Given that Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) is in the electricity supply business, these weather events don’t lead to a nostalgic interlude, but more often to hours of work to restore power to our members. This has been a volatile weather year with periods of amazing weather intermixed with storms, both large and small. Some areas of our service territory were hit harder than others but none were without some interruption.

We have committed significant resources to improving the reliability

of our system. We have replaced older, failing parts of the system with new and physically sound infrastructure. We have, continually, put significant time and money into our line clearing efforts. (As a reminder this is what we call “tree trimming.”) We have improved our efficiency in this area and continue to increase the resources committed to this — our single biggest cause of electric service failure. With the new year we will implement an aggressive approach to dealing with the growing problem of dying ash trees throughout our territory. Even with these continued and expanded efforts, weather plays a dominant role in the frequency and duration of outages that we experience. We continue to work on ways to mitigate storm damage and the length of outages that you might experience.

Now that I have explained my disdain for storms you understand why the title of this article has “Good” in quotation marks. The only “Good” storm is no storm. My son still likes storms but he does it a little more quietly out of deference to me and the members whom I serve. On behalf of myself, the staff and the board, I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season, with snowfall for a white Christmas — but free from any storms.

“On behalf of myself, the staff and the board, I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season, with snowfall for a white Christmas — but free from any storms.”

Matt Boshaw, CEO & general manager



Electric usage seems to increase for most around the Christmas holiday. Colder weather, baking, extra household members and all the festive decorating, both inside and out, all add up to more electric consumption. Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) are the undisputed champs of holiday lighting, using 10 times less energy than incandescent lights.

Decorate with LEDs

You could literally wrap your home in LED light strings, become visible to the whole community, and still have a pleasantly manageable electric bill. LEDs are also showing up in other forms and places. They are available in clear tubes that you can wrap around objects for extra interest (the tube glows), and many yard figures are constructed with these as the main structural element. Imagine the possibilities!

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

SAFETY MATTERS

Winter Holiday Safety Tips

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But it's also a time to watch for fire and safety hazards. More home fires happen on Dec. 25 than any other day except Thanksgiving. Following these simple safety tips will help ensure you have a happy and fire-free holiday season.

- Water fresh trees daily and make sure they are placed away from heaters, candles and fireplaces.
- Extinguish candles. Always make sure candles are out before leaving a room or going to sleep. Candles should have a one-foot radius free of anything that can catch fire.
- Turn off decorative lights when you leave the

house or go to bed. Consider switching to LED lights. Ken gives positive reasons for this change above.

- Make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms work. You should have working alarms on every level of your home and outside all sleeping areas. Smoke alarms over 10 years old should be replaced.
- Use extension cords wisely and only as a temporary connection. Don't overload them. Match the cord to the appliance. Never put cords under rugs as this can damage the cord and cause a fire.



Youth Tour 2016 applications are due to CEC on Feb. 5. More information is on CEC's website and will be in the January edition of this newsletter.

Youth Tour is a FREE, week-long learning and leadership event in Washington, D.C. in June for high school juniors who live in a home receiving electric service from CEC.

If you have questions, please contact Renee Tritten at 800-521-0570 x2173.

Your Co-op's Guiding Principles No. 7: Concern for Community

Possibly the most visible of all the cooperative principles, the last is what drives electric cooperatives to be good stewards of the communities they serve.

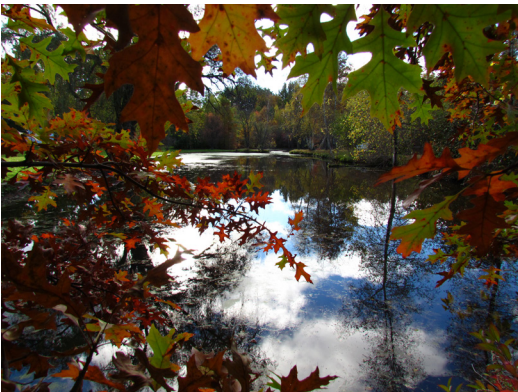
CEC offers support for its communities by offering free educational and safety programs, administering scholarships, participating in charity item collections, supporting fundraisers and sponsoring events.

CEC also participates in economic development by participating in a variety of organizations to help improve the communities we serve.

“While our first priority is delivering safe, affordable, reliable electricity to those we serve, we also feel strongly about supporting and contributing to the development of our communities,” Matt Boshaw, CEC CEO and General Manager, stresses. “Even if there were no ‘concern for community’ principle, every one of your cooperative’s employees are first and foremost friends, neighbors and part of the community.”

CEC's Photo Contest Winners

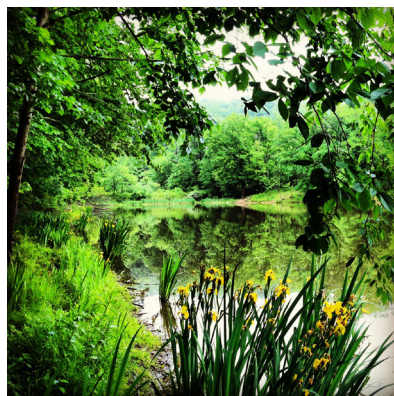
Thank you to everyone who participated in our 2015 Photo Contest! We started with 34 entries and with the help of all of you voters, the three winning photos have been determined. Watch for information on our 2016 Photo Contest in your spring Power Lines newsletters!



First Place: Fall Colors at Succop,
taken by Kathryn Stover of Valencia



Second Place: Morning Hellos,
taken by Carol Kruth of Saxonburg



Third Place: Boat Launch Reflections,
taken by Laird Cole of Grove City



Holiday Coloring Contest

Hey kids! Enter our holiday coloring contest for a chance to win a prize! Deadline is Jan. 15, 2016. 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: _____

Address: _____ Telephone: _____

Recipe of the Month

Cranberry-Pineapple Salad

Ingredients:

- 1 20 ounce can crushed pineapple, undrained
- 2 packages (four serving size) strawberry or raspberry Jello®
- 1 14 ounce can whole cranberry sauce
- 1 medium apple, chopped
- 2/3 cup chopped nuts

Directions: Drain pineapple but reserve liquid. Add enough cold water to liquid to measure three cups. Pour into saucepan. Boil, remove from heat and add jello. Stir at least two minutes. Add cranberry sauce and pour into large bowl. Refrigerate one and a half hours until thickened. Stir in pineapple, apple and walnuts. Pour into serving bowl. Refrigerate four hours or until firm.

Thank you to Linda Knott 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:

Jerry Gray of Erie

Last Issue's E-Winner:

Ralph Oesterling Jr. of Butler

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 have, and continue to, put significant time and money into line clearing (“tree trimming”) to reduce outages.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: LEDs use 10 times less energy than incandescent lights.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: Candles should have a one-foot radius free of anything that can catch fire.

Answer: _____

How are we doing? (no wrong answer)

Name: _____

Address: _____

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



Central Electric Cooperative

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