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PowerLines

**If April Showers Bring May Flowers,
What Does April Snow Bring?**

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

I have a bone to pick with a certain groundhog from Punxsutawney. On Feb. 2 the animal predicted an early spring. I have only lived in Western Pennsylvania for three years and have been told that old Phil rarely predicts an early break to winter so when he did this year I was looking forward to the end of the long cold winter that we have seen. Turns out, he was just giving us false hope. Why do I bring this up now? I mention this because of printing schedules. I write these articles about three to four weeks before they come out, and as I look out my window on April 3rd, I see snow and hear a cold breeze howling. Hopefully, by the time you are reading this, the weather has finally turned to spring. I have no doubt that the delay has given everyone a significant case of cabin fever, and

also put you behind on yard work, clean up and planting.

It is these activities and your delight at being outside which made me think a reminder about safety around electric facilities might be in order. In our efforts to catch up with all the outside work we might be less focused on potential electrical hazards. The winter weather can cause damage to trees or electrical lines that may not have resulted in a power outage, but may have left behind a hazardous condition. It is always important to be aware of your surroundings, especially at this time of year when things may not be as they were. Whether cutting and removing dead

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limbs, climbing a ladder to clean your gutters or digging in a new fence post, awareness about the location and condition of electrical facilities is very important. Even if nothing is out of place, if you are working on your roof or on a ladder, you may be closer to energized electrical facilities than you want to be. The safety of our members is our highest priority, and every month we include safety tips in Matt Alderson's "Safety MATTERS" section of this newsletter. We also give safety presentations to schools and other groups throughout the year.

The very good news is that most electrical contact accidents can be easily avoided with minimal effort. If you are going to be digging, call 1-800-242-1776 or 811, and all utilities will come mark the location of their underground facilities so that you can avoid them. Believe it or not, that is the more difficult of the safety measures. When climbing ladders or doing any work that is above your head, simply look up and identify where the wires are located. It might seem like common sense, but the more time that has passed between now and the last time you walked up that ladder makes it easy to forget some of the smallest steps. As always, treat any down wire as energized. Unlike in the movies, energized wires don't always jump around and spark, or make noise. As a matter of fact, they are usually quiet and still. A good rule of

thumb is that if you can't see both ends of a wire, consider it live.

Here at CEC we work around electricity every day so electrical safety is always our first priority. For those who don't work with electricity every day, the cooperative employees want to remind you to put electrical safety at the top of your spring chore list. We would like everyone to get that yard work done safely. Given the delay in our spring weather, I have heard it suggested that some folks might be substituting groundhog for the traditional burgers and hot dogs. I'm just kidding; let's give ol' Phil a break this year, after all he has got to be over 100 years old by now.

Safety Tips for Starting Your Summer Off Right

1. Never leave your grill unattended — especially, when there are small children around.

2. Remember to keep cold items inside a cooler filled with ice.

More tips on p. 5.

View Outages

Just a reminder that outage information is available 24/7 at www.central.coop. Visitors can click on the View Outages button to see a map with affected areas indicated (actual button appears above).

Submit Your Photo and Win!



CEC is excited to announce its 2013 member photo contest! CEC will award prizes for the top three winners: \$100 first place, \$50 second place and \$25 third place. Submit your best photo for a chance to win! The subject of your photo can be beautiful scenery and landscapes, interesting or unusual buildings or structures, power line equipment, or anything else that you find appealing. You must submit your photo between May 1 and June 30.

Members will vote for the top five photos from July 1 through Aug. 11. You may then vote for the top three photos beginning Aug. 12.

You can vote through our website at www.central.coop, or by visiting our office. You will also have the opportunity to vote using a ballot in our September Power Lines newsletter. CEC will announce the winners in late October.

If you have any questions about this contest, please contact Renee Spence at rspence@central.coop or by calling 1-800-521-0570 x2173.

Rules:

1. Only one entry per member.
2. The photo must have been taken by a CEC member within one of CEC's seven service counties (Allegheny, Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Forest, Mercer and Venango).
3. The photo should be submitted electronically to Renee Spence at rspence@central.coop by June 30. If you are unable to submit it electronically, please contact Renee to make other arrangements. When submitting a photo, you must include where the photo was taken, a brief description of the subject, who took the photo, how you would like to be recognized within the photo's credit line, and a title of the photo.
4. Employees and directors of CEC, along with members of their immediate families, are ineligible.
5. The prizes will appear as credit on the winners' bills and may not be redeemed for cash.

By submitting a photo entry to this contest you are granting CEC permission to use the image in any and all of its publications, including internal and external newsletters and website entries, without payment. However, photo credit will be given. CEC reserves the right to disqualify any photo deemed inappropriate or offensive.

Local Teens Selected for Youth Tour

Three local high school juniors were recently selected to attend the June 2013 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. Candidates' parents must be cooperative members. The 2013 winners are Julianna Crates, Cranberry High School along with Zachary Moore and Kendyll Smith, both from Karns City High School.

They will join over 1,500 students from across the nation. Students will have the opportunity to experience our nation's capital, sight-see, meet with federal legislators and learn about electric cooperatives. For more information visit www.central.coop.



Julianna Crates



Zachary Moore



Kendyll Smith



Mark Your Calendar for our Annual Meeting of the Members Picnic

Attend this year's Annual Meeting of the Members on Friday, Aug. 23 at Whitehall Campgrounds at 4:30 p.m. for a delicious meal and a chance to win a number of door prizes.

You can make reservations for the meeting by completing the adjacent form or calling us at 1-800-521-0570. Registration deadline is July 31.

This year's meeting will also include children's entertainment! For more information, or to check out the agenda, visit www.central.coop.



Name: _____

Address: _____

Map No: _____

Phone No: _____

Please reserve _____ dinners for me.
*Members will need to pay
if ordering more than four meals.*

*By attending the annual meeting, I grant CEC
permission to use my likeness in photographs in any
and all of its publications, including internal and
external newsletters and website entries, without
payment or other consideration.*

**Return coupon by July 31, 2013 to:
Central Electric Cooperative, Inc., 716 Route 368,
P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049-0329**

Tellers Needed for Elections

The cooperative board of directors is seeking CEC members to serve as tellers for the annual meeting on Aug. 23. The committee tabulates director election ballots returned prior to the meeting, via Internet or by mail, and votes cast at the meeting. Tellers must arrive by 4 p.m.

Eight tellers are needed: one from Armstrong County, two from Butler County, two from Clarion County, one from Forest County and two from Venango County. If more members volunteer than are needed, a drawing will be held by our judge of elections. If there are no volunteers the cooperative directors will appoint needed tellers.

2013 Tellers Committee

Name: _____

Address: _____

Map No: _____ **Phone No:** _____ **County:** _____

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Check it out!
By Ken Maleski
Residential Analyst
& Advisor



An electric clothes dryer can average 20 percent or more of your monthly electric bill. Of course, the lowest cost dryer is the old fashioned clothes line. You can save about 70 cents per load with just a few clothes pins, the solar power of the sun, and a good steady breeze. The problem is that weather limits when it can be used.

Clothes dryer energy efficiency is measured by a term called energy factor or pounds of clothing per kilowatt-hour of electricity. The minimum energy factor for a standard electric dryer is 3.01. A gas dryer has a rating of 2.67. And yes, the rating for gas dryers is in kilowatt-hours, even though the fuel is gas. Before choosing between gas and electric, make sure

Clothes Dryers

adequate hookup lines are available for either one. The added expense to supply a gas line or electric wiring should be considered in overall costs. New gas dryers are about \$50 more in price than similar electric models. But lifetime operating costs are less.

Here are some tips to consider when making a purchase:

- Check for the highest energy factor when choosing between two models.
- Know whether your laundry room has gas or electric hookup.
- Look for models that have a moisture sensor. It automatically shuts off the machine when your clothes are dry, saving energy and wear/tear on clothes caused by over-drying.

SAFETY

M Tips to Start the Summer Off Right

Everyone is anxious to get outside and start barbecuing. The following tips will help you do this safely.

- When left unattended, grills are fascinating to little ones. A small child trying to pretend they are like daddy can be severely burned by a grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended when small children are playing nearby, and make sure children play far enough away to prevent injury from flying sparks.



Matt Alderson
Manager of Safety and
Operations Support

- If children are playing with something like a ball that could fly near the grill, increase the distance between the grill and the kids.
- Food poisoning is common over Memorial Day. Dishes made with mayonnaise, like potato salad or coleslaw, are the biggest hazards. When these sit out in the hot sun, they can quickly breed harmful bacteria. To avoid this, keep the cooler well stocked with ice, and put these items inside at all times.

Recipe of the Month

Blueberry Buckle

Ingredients

- 3 cups flour
- 3-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup soft margarine
- 1-1/2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1-1/3 cups milk
- Blueberries

Directions

In a medium mixing bowl combine flour, baking powder, salt and set aside. In a separate bowl, beat margarine and sugar until creamy. Then beat in eggs and vanilla. Combine mixtures and beat to mix. Pour less than 1/2 batter into greased 9 x 13 pan. Cover with blueberries and sprinkle with sugar (use as little or as many blueberries and sugar as you want). Spoon remaining batter on top and cover with more blueberries and sprinkle more sugar. Bake at 350 degrees for approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes or until brown.

Thank you to Stacey Bechtel for submitting this recipe!

**My recipe supply is running low!
Please send in your recipes, to be
shared in our newsletter, today!**

Send Recipes to:

Renee Spence at rspence@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



Last Issue's Winner:

Thomas Nolan of Chicora

Last Issue's E-Winner:

Bruce Junker of Chicora

Read your issue of CEC's Power Lines and win! It's simple — you can win a \$25 credit on your monthly electric bill by reading Power Lines and completing the quiz below. CEC holds an additional drawing for a \$50 bill credit for quizzes submitted online at www.central.coop/quiz.

Complete, clip and enclose the quiz and personal information below and return it with your monthly payment. For quiz rules visit www.central.coop/quiz.

1. True or False: Safety is always our top priority.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: The minimum energy factor for a standard electric dryer is 3.01.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: The sun can cause harmful bacteria to quickly spread within foods that contain mayonnaise.

Answer: _____

How are we doing? (no wrong answer)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Account #:** _____



Central Electric Cooperative

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