

Power Lines

Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.
A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative

The power of human connections

1-800-521-0570

P.O. Box 329 - Parker - PA - 16049

www.central.coop

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Your Central Electric Cooperative News Connection

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What's inside

September is still officially summer. There are ways to keep your home cooler during the heat. Page 3.

September is also a good time to prepare for the coming cold. Page 4.

CEC announces Good Neighbor scholarship. Page 5.



Grilled vegetable pizzas are a treat to eat! Page 6.

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Thank-you!

The Cooperative provides electric service on a consumer-owned, non-profit basis to nearly 25,000 members. In order to do this, we rely on the member/property owners to provide rights-of-way for Cooperative poles and wires and other equipment necessary to distribute electric.

The cooperation of all members in placing and operating the distribution system through which your service is delivered is vital to providing you with that service.

Whether it is to repair lines after a storm to restore service, to trim trees on a preventative basis, or to change a meter, the Cooperative cannot provide you with electric service without accessing its facilities on your property. Your cooperation in these instances, whatever the reason, is greatly appreciated.

Geographical Information System

Early in 2006, the Cooperative began the process to replace the 40-year-old paper maps of its distribution system with a



Larry Adams
CEO & General Manager

digitized Geographical Information System (GIS). Without going into detail, the maps and data bases created in the GIS will be much more accurate and contain a wealth of information about the distribution system not possible with our old paper maps. It will gradually be integrated with other computer-based systems used by the Co-op, greatly increasing the amount and timeliness of information available to employees for the operation of the distribution system.

See GIS/Page 2

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GIS/From Page 1

When completed, the Cooperative will have invested about \$900,000 in equipment and gathering data. While that's a considerable sum, it will serve the Cooperative and its members for many years. Some benefits will be immediate, with additional benefits coming in the future as more systems are integrated.

The GIS will include coordinates for the Co-op's facilities based on the Global Positioning System (GPS). This will locate every pole and meter on the distribution system on the earth's surface with a high degree of accuracy. This, along with the other information the system will contain, will provide benefits in improved service reliability and reduced operating costs.

However, in order to gather the GPS coordinates and other data to populate the system, every pole and meter on the system must be visited. Southeastern Reprographics Inc. (SRI) is doing this fieldwork.

They are using a combination of pick-up trucks, all terrain vehicles, and walking when necessary. The faster the data is gathered, the lower we keep the cost of the project.

All SRI vehicles are marked to identify them as working for the Cooperative and SRI employees carry identification.

This means that during this project, you have seen or will see SRI employees visiting Cooperative poles and meters on your property. This is where the thank you comes in.



Thank-you!

As I mentioned, in order to stay on schedule and keep the cost of the project as low as we can, we have had to move through the system as quickly as we can. We have tried to move quickly without alarming you when you see someone you don't know around your home or on your property. Unfortunately, we haven't always been able to avoid that. Whether you were bothered by

our presence or not, I thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

As I write this article, SRI is moving into Butler County to gather data for the GIS project. These are the last lines of the Cooperative remaining to be surveyed. Members there will see SRI employees and/or vehicles moving along Co-op lines to collect the data necessary for the project over the next couple of months. I ask for your continued cooperation as we complete this project, which will occur by the end of the year. If you have doubts about the folks you see, remember, all our contractor's employees and vehicles have identification.

I appreciate the cooperation of the membership in implementing the GIS. It will provide benefits to the Cooperative and its members for many years. For this and other times we must work on your property, Thank-You!



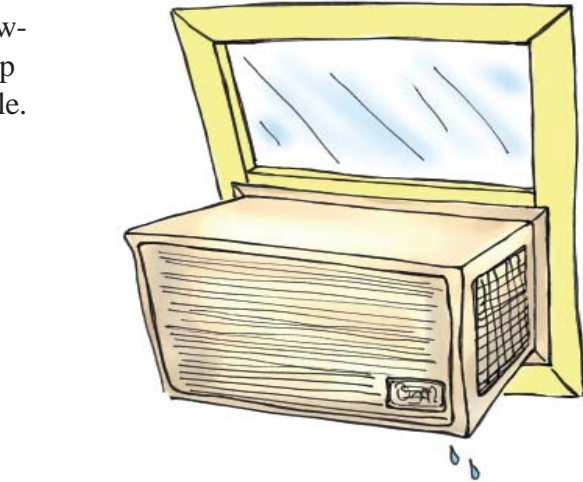
September is...



September is still officially summer, and for sure, there will still be plenty of hot days left. There is still time for summer grilling, barbecues and enjoying the outdoors. But when you are inside, there will still be days you will need to keep your cool!

Summer electric bills are greatly affected by the use of air conditioners or heat pump air conditioners. By following a few, or all, of the suggestions below, you can keep the cooling portion of your electric bill as low as possible. If you are in the market for a new air conditioner, the end of the summer is often a good time for sales. Remember to buy one with the highest SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio) rating you can afford. These appliances are the most efficient!

Don't buy too big. An air conditioner should "fit" the size of your home. An HVAC professional can advise you about proper sizing.



Turn on your ceiling fans. They increase the circulation of cool air and might allow you to turn up the thermostat a notch.

Close your window blinds during the hottest part of the day and consider adding insulation to your attic as well as caulking windows. Preventing cool air from leaking out of your house can reduce cooling costs by 20 percent.

Avoid using your oven if you can and cook outside on a grill as much as possible! Run your kitchen and bathroom vent fans when cooking, washing dishes and bathing, but only then.

Set your thermostat at the highest comfortable temperature that you can. A difference of only one degree can increase your cost to operate the air conditioning system in your home.

Close off unused rooms, but be careful not to close too many vents in those rooms, which could impede airflow in the house.





...transition time

September also marks the official start of autumn. It is a time to be thinking ahead and become better prepared for the coming winter months. Before it arrives, there are certain items you should check and consider to make your home more energy efficient.

Cold weather heating bills are greatly affected by your home's insulation against the cold. To make sure you are snug in the winter, take time this fall before cold weather hits to find and stop air leaks in your home.

Look for leaks around plumbing and wiring, gaps in walls, the attic and the foundation. After checking to make sure your home is well-sealed, remember that a well-insulated attic or ceiling is one of the main defenses against heat loss during the winter.



It should be obvious that heating costs are a major part of winter utility bills! So if you want to lower your costs, you should do everything possible you can afford - like adding that insulation - but also use ideas that cost very little or nothing at all. If you close your curtains in the summer to ward off heat and keep your house cool, then it only makes sense to reverse that trend in the winter. Take advantage of sunlight coming through your windows and open those curtains and blinds!

An annual heating system check-up is a good idea in the fall. It will assure you that your system is working at peak efficiency. Also, remember to change the furnace filter. It is made to keep the furnace's heat exchanger running clean and efficiently!



Remember to enjoy all seasons! If you are better prepared for winter, it becomes easier to cope with the cold and snow. Why not take a free online energy audit at Central Electric's web site at www.central.coop. For more information about ways your Cooperative can help you with energy efficiency, call 1-800-521-0570.

CEC Announces Good Neighbor Scholarship

Your cooperative is proud to announce our first Good Neighbor Scholarship program. High school seniors whose parents or guardians live on cooperative lines are eligible to apply for \$1,000 toward post-secondary education costs.

Candidates must complete an application and write a one-page essay on how they contributed to their communities. Parents or guardians must submit financial documentation of income and dependents. Brochures and applications will be available at 18 different high schools throughout Central Electric Cooperative's service territory. Additional applications can be found at our web site www.central.coop. Scholarships will be awarded in late spring or early summer of 2008.

Monies to support these 18 scholarships were made possible by the diligent efforts of area state legislators. Act 187 in November of 2006 permitted electric cooperatives to retain unclaimed property that previously reverted back to the state treasury. Unclaimed Capital Credits are now being used to support specific efforts in education, energy assistance and community projects.

It's another testimony on how your Touchstone Energy Cooperative is committed to our communities



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What's Cookin'...

Grilled Vegetable Pizzas



Ingredients:

- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 red bell pepper, cut into quarters
- 4 slices red onion, cut 1/2-inch thick
- 1 medium zucchini, halved lengthwise
- 1 medium yellow squash, halved lengthwise
- 1 cup prepared pizza sauce
- 1/4 tsp. red pepper flakes
- 1 (10-inch) prepared pizza crusts
- 2 cups (8 ounces) shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/4 cup sliced fresh basil leaves.

Preparation:

1. Prepare grill for direct cooking.
2. Combine 2 tablespoons oil and garlic in small bowl, brush over bell pepper, onion, zucchini and squash. Place vegetables on grill. Grill, on covered grill, over medium heat 10 minutes or until crisp-tender, turning halfway through grilling time. Remove from grill.
3. Slice bell pepper lengthwise into 1/4-inch strips. Cut zucchini and squash crosswise into 1/4-inch slices. Separate onion slices into rings.
4. Combine pizza sauce and red pepper flakes in small bowl. Top crusts with equal amounts pizza sauce mixture, cheese and grilled vegetables.
5. Place pizzas, one at a time, on grill. Grill covered, over medium-low heat 5 to 6 minutes or until cheese is melted. Sprinkle with basil. Serve warm.

From the recipe section of www.howstuffworks.com.

The Staff

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Read Power Lines and



Read your issue of Central Electric Cooperative's *Power Lines* and Win! It's simple - you can win a \$50 credit on your monthly electric bill by reading *Power Lines* and then completing the quiz that appears below. Answer the questions (answers are contained in each issue of *Power Lines*), then complete the quiz and personal information and return it with your bill payment.

Important Contest Rules:

1. The contest is open to all Central Electric Cooperative members with active accounts as of the drawing date.
2. Only one entry per member is permitted.
3. Employees and Directors of Central Electric, along with members of their immediate families, are not eligible.
4. The winning entry will appear as a credit on the member's bill and may not be redeemed for cash.

Complete, clip and enclose the quiz and personal information below and return it with your monthly payment!



1. **True or False:** Butler County is the site where GIS mapping is currently taking place.

Answer: _____

2. **True or False:** The lines in Butler County are the first lines to be surveyed by CEC for its GIS system.

Answer: _____

3. **True or False:** Keep your curtains and window blinds open during sunny, winter days.

Answer: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____ Account Number _____

Winner of June & July Power Lines quizzes:

Phil Tack of Worthington & Shirley McDonald of Butler
Congratulations!

We're just one click away!

Visit us online at:

www.central.coop

