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P.O. Box 329 - Parker - PA - 16049
1-800-521-0570

Power Lines



Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections

ISSUE NO. 3

Your Central Electric Cooperative News Connection

MARCH 2008

What's inside

Information on Earned Income Tax Credits. Page 3.

Central Electric will sponsor a seminar on electric heating information on April 1 Page 4.

Osmostest pole testing in Central Electric Service areas will get underway. Page 5.

CEC Easter holiday hours announced. Page 6.



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Key to Electrical Safety: Awareness

Over the years, society has become dependent on electricity and has drastically increased the use of electrical power. Have you ever stopped to think about life without a refrigerator, computer, television, or even a coffee pot?

Electricity no doubt enhances our lives. It is also very powerful and has the potential to be extremely dangerous if not used correctly. I believe electrical safety awareness is the key to reducing injury and even death to electrical hazards.

Shocks and fires are the most common related electrical emergencies and can be prevented. Protecting your family and your home is as simple as knowing what hazards to look for and how to correct them.

INDOOR ELECTRICAL SAFETY



A few simple tips can make all the difference when dealing with electrical hazards. For example, when you



Larry Adams
CEO & General Manager

observe flickering or dimming lights, flashes of light or sparks when using small appliances - something is wrong. Likewise, overheated wires giving off an odor of hot insulation, or which cause switch plates and receptacles to discolor - also indicate that something is wrong. These are signs of electrical problems that need your immediate attention. If you have witnessed or experienced any of these signs or if you have experienced a mild tingle

See SAFETY/Page 2

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SAFETY/ From Page 1

from electrical shock you should contact a licensed electrician to inspect your home's electrical system. In addition to inspection of your wiring it is important to check the condition of all electrical cords. Broken plugs or cracks and frayed cords are hazardous and should be disposed of immediately. Always use appliances and equipment according to the manufacturer's instructions.

OUTSIDE ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Electrical safety outside is just as important as inside. Spring is just around the corner and like most people I am looking forward to working outdoors. The combination of climbing temperatures and nature's beauty creates an irresistible atmosphere. With the increase in outdoor work and activities, it is extremely vital to be aware of electrical safety. The following tips should help you reduce electrical injuries outside:



- Make sure ladders never come in contact with power lines.
- Unplug all outdoor tools and appliances when not in use.

- Inspect power tools and appliances before using them.
- **Never** use any form of electrical power in damp conditions.

Before beginning any outside work I always check the surrounding area for anything that might be considered hazardous when in contact with electricity.

You should always be aware of the location of overhead and underground electrical wires when working around home. Remember to call before you dig.

KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS ARE VITAL

Remember knowledge is the number one prevention of electrical hazards. So pay close attention to the warning signs and never downplay an electrical occurrence. There is no such thing as being too cautious when it comes to electrical safety. Follow the rules. Pay attention to danger signs. Your life and the lives around you are worth the extra care!



STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Central Electric Cooperative is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the

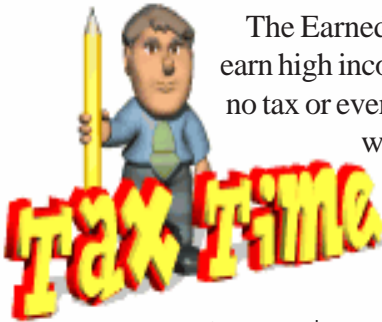
basis of race, color, national origin, age or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is the Director of Human Resources. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has

subjected them to discrimination, may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

Information on Earned Income Tax Credits



The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a tax credit for people who work, but do not earn high incomes. If they qualify and claim the credit, they could pay less federal tax, pay no tax or even receive a refund beyond the amount of tax withheld. However, many workers may be unaware of the EITC or may not claim it because they don't know how. New parents, grandparents raising grandchildren and foster parents may not realize there are special rules that may help them qualify.

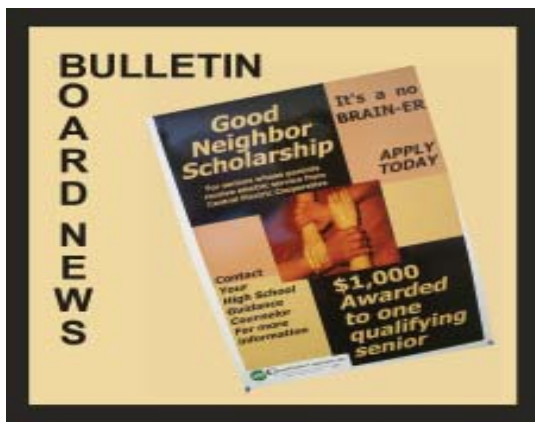
The credit can be worth up to : \$4,716 with two or more qualifying children; \$2,853 with one qualifying child; or \$428 with no qualifying children.

To qualify, your earned income and adjusted gross income (AGI) in 2007 must each be less than: \$37,783 (\$39,783 married filing jointly) with two or more qualifying children; \$33,241 (\$35,241 married filing jointly) with one qualifying child; or \$12,590 (\$14,590 married filing jointly) with no qualifying children.

In addition, the following requirements must be met: you must have a valid Social Security Number; you must have earned income from employment or from self-employment; your filing status cannot be married, filing separately; you must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien all year, or a nonresident alien married to a U.S. citizen or resident alien and filing a joint return; you cannot be a qualifying child of another person; if you do not have a qualifying child you must be age 25 but under 65 at the end of the year, you must live in the United States for more than half the year and you must not qualify as a dependent of another person; you cannot have more than \$2900 of investment income; and you cannot file Form 2555 or 2555 EZ (related to foreign earned income).

EITC information and forms are available at www.irs.gov/eitc, a portion of the IRS web site dedicated to EITC issues. Details about the credit also can be found in IRS Publication 596 Earned Income Credit. Many individuals who qualify for EITC may qualify to file their taxes for free through the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program or through the Free File program on the IRS web site

Go to www.irs.gov for more information or call 1-800-829-1040.



IMPORTANT REMINDER!

High school seniors who are interested in applying for Central Electric's Good Neighbor Scholarship program MUST turn in their applications by March 15!!

High School students interested should see their Guidance counselors. Anyone with questions should call CEC office at 1-800-521-0570.

Want information on warding off wind, winter and the weather?



HEATING SEMINAR COMING!

Learn how electric heat can save BIG dollars over oil and propane fuels!
Meet area vendors and installers of electric heating options!
Gather information on other energy-saving ideas!

WHEN: Tuesday, April 1 at 7 p.m.

WHERE: Fairfield Inn - at the intersection of Route 422 and Route 8, Butler

SO
WHY
NOT?

GO ELECTRIC

It's the **SMART** choice

Visit us online
www.central.coop



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Ken's kilowatt corner

By Ken Maleski
Consumer Marketing Representative

www.central.coop
Check it out!



Electric water heaters are the single largest power consumers in a home, except for electric heat. An average family of four consumes a minimum of 400 kwh a month for domestic hot water needs. Here are three simple ways to use your water heater efficiently:

1. Set the thermostat to 120 degrees F.
2. Wash clothes in cold water, instead of hot or warm.
3. Call 800-521-0570 for your next water heater installation.

We install A.O. Smith tanks that are high in efficiency and we do all the work for just \$279.99 (plus tax.) Give us a call!



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GO ELECTRIC
It's the **SMART** choice

There's no place like home - and at nightfall, you'll have peace of mind with a night light from your cooperative.



Call **1-800-521-0570** to find out how you can add a little light to your night

Visit us online for more great ideas!
www.central.coop

Osmose Pole Testing Time Arrives Again!

Beginning in mid-March, Osmose Wood Preserving of America will continue testing and treating Central Electric Cooperative's electric poles to determine if they are safe or in need of replacement.

Annual pole testing will take place on the electric distribution lines served by the Nectarine Substation located in Venango County. Specific townships where the testing will occur include Sandy Creek, Mineral, Victory and French Creek in Venango County in addition to Hickory, Green, Kingsley, and Tionesta townships in Forest County.

Testing will continue throughout the spring and early summer months. The testing is a continuation of the Cooperative's system maintenance program. If you have any questions concerning this program, call our toll-free number 1-800-521-0570. After reaching the main menu, dial extension 2193 and ask for Lori.



All employees, members of Central Electric Cooperative, Inc., and members of their families are eligible for membership in U\$XFCU. Here's a look at another great service available exclusively from your credit union.

WHAT PAYMENT CAN YOU AFFORD? - At U\$X FCU YOU GET TO PICK YOUR PAYMENT!

Winter is history and summer is on the way! If you've been waiting for the right time to trade-in your old vehicle for a new one, NOW is the time! Our auto loans are designed to fit your budget - no matter what your situation. At U\$X FCU you can pick your payment on your next vehicle!

For more information on making your new vehicle purchase as stress-free as possible by picking a payment that will fit your budget, call our Saxonburg/Sarver branch office for assistance.

724-352-9170.

Remember...U\$X FCU vehicle loans also qualify for Member Loyalty Rewards!

What's cookin'...



The United Nations declared 2008 the International Year of the Potato. An inspired food-staple, worldwide, the potato is especially well-known in Ireland, where many years ago, when a blight hit the potato crop, the Irish Potato Famine, caused many deaths. Today, potatoes are well known for their healthy benefits as a food choice. Today's recipe, Potato Lasagna was found on the website www.healthypotato.com where many more recipes featuring this versatile vegetable can be found!

Potato Lasagna

- 2 medium russet, white or yellow -flesh potatoes or 3 to 4 small red potatoes
- 1 can (15 ounces) pizza sauce
- 1 pound 85% lean ground meat
- 1/2 tsp. salt and 1/2 tsp. black pepper
- 1 1/2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

INSTRUCTIONS: Cut potatoes into 1/4-inch-thick slices. Spray a 1-quart microwave dish with cooking spray. Spread 2 tablespoons pizza sauce in bottom of dish. Arrange potato slices in a single layer on top of the sauce. Crumble half the beef evenly over potatoes. Season with half the salt and pepper. Sprinkle with half the mozzarella cheese and half the remaining pizza sauce. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Cover tightly with lid or plastic wrap. Microwave on high for 20 minutes or until potatoes and beef are done. Let sit for two minutes. Use oven mitts or tongs to remove from microwave. Remove plastic wrap carefully to prevent burns from steam. Serves 4.

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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:** You only qualify for earned income tax credits if you have a very high income.
Answer: _____
2. **True or False:** The Good Neighbor Scholarship deadline is March 15.
Answer: _____
3. **True or False:** Osmose pole testing will be in CEC service areas at the end of April.
Answer: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____ Account Number _____

Winner of January Power Lines quiz:

Donald W. Thomas of Boyers
Congratulations!



In observance of the Easter holiday, Central Electric offices will be closed all day on Good Friday, March 21, 2008. Normal office hours will resume Monday, March 24, 2008.