

Power Lines

P.O. Box 329
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www.central.coop



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

ISSUE NO. 9

YOUR CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS CONNECTION

September 2008

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Thieves Cost you Money ... Please Help.

I'm sure you are aware of the increasing costs of metals and other building materials worldwide. Copper in particular is up in price, and because it is an excellent electrical conductor, it is used throughout our distribution system.

The cost of copper is having another impact on the cooperative and its members; one you might not expect. Thieves are taking copper from cooperative poles and on three occasions have entered cooperative substations, cutting and stealing copper ground wires. The value of the copper taken is insignificant compared to the damage done to the facilities through which you are served. Possible affect on the thief is electrocution and even death. That's a high price to pay for a few dollars worth of copper.

What's Happening?

A few years ago we started to experience wire theft from cooperative storage areas. Over the last couple of years



Larry Adams
CEO & General Manager

we have experienced break-ins and theft from cooperative substations. In these cases, thieves broke into the substations and cut sections of copper wire from the substations' ground grids and energized equipment. This created a high voltage situation, which includes arcing, and is very dangerous. In the most recent incident on July 17th at the cooperative's Nectarine substation, the resultant arcing costs Central almost \$16,000 worth of damage to substation equipment and caused a two-hour outage for members served through the substation.

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In April 2006 a similar incident at the Mineral substation caused \$24,115 of damage. In both cases, the value of the copper taken was less than \$100 and insignificant compared to damage costs. On a statewide basis, cooperatives have experienced 46 incidents at an approximate cost of \$245,000. Our statewide association, the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, is working to support state legislation to make the sale of stolen metals more difficult.

The effect of these thefts on your service are voltage fluctuation and outages. While these are unavoidable evils in any electric utility's operation, we put forth the effort and money every day to keep them to a minimum. I find having someone with a wanton disregard for their own safety and the effect on your service, including service rate, intolerable.

All cooperative substations are fenced, topped with barbed wire and locked. They are also lighted. We have monitoring devices installed and are investigating additional measures we can take. However, we want to be sure we've done everything reasonable to prevent further occurrences. That's where you come in.

You can Help!

You live and work on the cooperative's distribution system, which includes more than 3,000 miles of line. That makes you the most likely person to see someone in the act.

If you see anyone in or around cooperative substations that should not be there, please call our 24-hour emergency number, 800-282-8610 and let us know. The same applies to anyone you see removing wire from cooperative poles who is not a cooperative employee. Cooperative employees and contractors will be in marked company vehicles. Please provide a location and a description of the person and/or their vehicle. Do not approach these individuals; we'll call the police and ask them to investigate.

Do not approach these individuals; we'll call the police and ask them to investigate.

With your help, the measures we have in place and the ones we will be adding, and passage of state legislation, we can make it more difficult for criminals to get away with disrupting your electric service and adding needless costs to operating our cooperative.



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Claim your Money!

Even though April 15 has passed, retirees, disabled veterans, and others who normally don't file a tax return still have time to submit a 2007 Form 1040A to receive an economic stimulus payment.

Individuals who have no filing requirement but have at least \$3,000 in qualifying income should file a simple Form 1040A with basic information to ensure that they receive the payment. This information includes their name, address, dependents (if any), amount of their qualifying income, direct deposit information and their signatures. Qualifying income includes any combination of earned income, nontaxable combat pay as well as certain payments from Social Security, Veterans Affairs and Railroad Retirement.


More details, a sample 1040A, and instructions are available at www.irs.gov.





www.central.coop
Check it out!

By **Ken Maleski**
CEC Consumer
Marketing Representative



Energy Vampires

Most appliances these days never quite shut down for the night. Sometimes called vampire electronics, these devices suck up 5 percent of all energy used in the United States and cost consumers more than \$3 billion every year. Appliances that use remote controls such as TVs, DVD players, ceiling fans and stereos are suspect. Any digital displays such as microwaves, coffee pots, and clocks are working against your electric bill.



Unplugging these vampires effectively drives a stake into their energy-consuming hearts. Power strips provide another way to thwart them. Simply plug appliances into a power strip, and switch it off when those appliances aren't being used.

You wouldn't walk away from a flowing water hose, after all, and you certainly don't want to keep feeding those vampires.

Scott Gates, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Arlington, Va.

Spotting Vampire Electronics

Many devices constantly draw power while plugged in, which can quickly add up on monthly electric bills. Keep an eye out for the following clues as to what should be unplugged when not in use:

External power supplies <i>Computers, printers</i>	 
Remote controls <i>Window AC units, TVs, DVD players</i>	 
Digital displays <i>Washing machines, microwaves, VCRs</i>	 
Rechargeable batteries <i>Battery chargers, cordless telephones, power tools</i>	 

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

What will Become of Hall's Run?

Every house has a story to tell, and Central Electric member Ed Sims' house is no exception. As a retired Slippery Rock University music teacher, Ed spends most of his time taking care of his estate and the natural beauty surrounding it.

Nestled among the trees of Hall's Run, Ed's 1950s era home was built from Douglas Fir and Redwood trees. Both are hard to come by in this part of the country. Beyond the beautifully constructed home lies a Japanese garden, wild flowers, hemlocks and a trout stream. And if that's not enough to entice you there are two man-made bridges.



Ed's home, built in 1950

Unfortunately for Ed, the hard work and creative design his family has incorporated into their estate will soon be lost. The highway department is re-routing Horse Creek Road through his property. The department is doing so to reduce the number of accidents that frequently occur, due to twists and turns in the road.

We hope everything works out for Ed. We thank him for giving us a tour of his amazing gardens.



Japanese garden, created in 1985

The land was purchased by his parents in 1939 as a getaway and became their primary residence in

1957. As young men Ed and his brother quickly learned the mechanics of building. They helped their father with many projects around the yard including transporting massive rocks to building a chimney.



Man-made bridge, redone in 1970

Power Lines

Winter is Just Around the Corner

Fuel costs for heating are expensive. So follow these three easy steps to ensure your home's heating costs stay consistently low.

1. Fix leaks

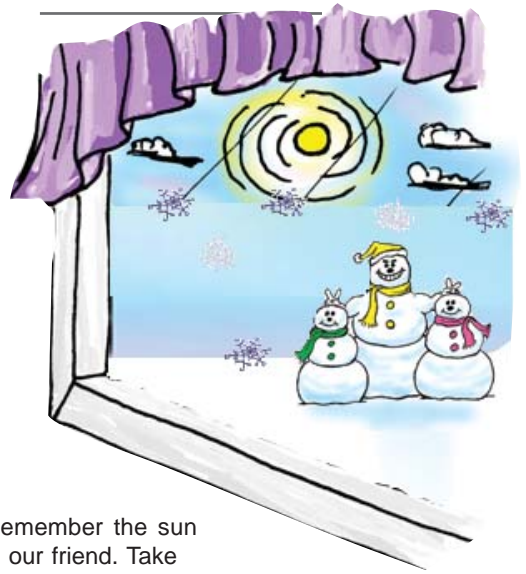
Check and fix leaks in the attic and foundation, and around obvious places such as plumbing and wiring to help lower heating costs.

2. Insulate

The best defense against heat loss is a well-sealed attic and ceiling. Cellulose is a great insulator. It stops air flow leakage, and is fire-resistant and bug-proof.

3. Heating system check-up

Annually check your heating system and change the furnace filter to ensure efficiency. Oil furnace nozzles should also be cleaned yearly.



Remember the sun is our friend. Take advantage of the sunlight in your windows and open those curtains and blinds!



- photo by Josh Wallin

Historic Foxburg Bridge

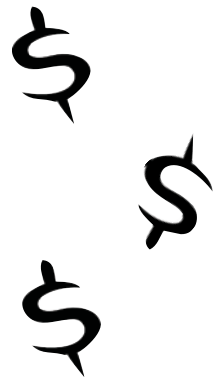
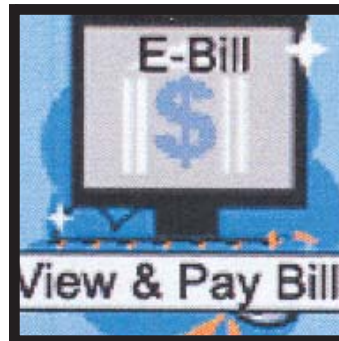
On July 24, 2008 the historic Foxburg bridge was imploded. Years ago, the two-level bridge provided both automobile and railroad crossing. A new bridge is built and already in use.

E-Bill, it's Fast, Secure and Easy to Use!

Tired of writing checks, searching for stamps and rushing to get a payment mailed on time?

Stop dealing with the monthly stresses associated with paper bills! CEC members now enjoy a new and improved level of service when they pay their electronic bill online.

Central's E-Bill service will help you to eliminate postage fees and obtain up-to-the-minute status reports on your account. Your payment will be made through a secure login process that will allow you to safely and privately view and pay your monthly bill at your convenience using a credit/debit card or personal



checking account. E-Bill will also eliminate the need for you to file old statements as you will be able to access your account history with just a click of the mouse. Register online now at www.central.coop!

What's cooking?

Fruited Curry Chicken

INGREDIENTS:

- * 4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves cooked and diced
- * 1 stalk celery, chopped
- * 1/2 onion, chopped
- * 1 small apple, peeled, cored and chopped
- * 1/3 cup golden raisins
- * 1/3 cup seedless green grapes, halved
- * 1/2 cup chopped toasted pecans
- * 1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper
- * 1/2 teaspoon curry powder
- * 3/4 cup mayonnaise



DIRECTIONS:

In a large salad bowl combine the chicken, celery, onion, apple, raisins, grapes, pecans, pepper, curry powder and mayonnaise. Mix all together, tossing to coat. Salad is ready to serve!

If you liked this recipe visit www.allrecipes.com for more great seasonal treats!

Send Recipes To: codonnell@central.coop

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Central Electric's office will be closed Monday, Sept. 1, in observance of Labor Day. Normal business hours will resume Tuesday, Sept. 2.



June contest winner:

Kim Olar of West Sunbury

July contest winner:

Raymond & Jean Kilgore of Cowansville

Congratulations!



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: On July 19, 2008 copper was stolen from the cooperative's Nectarine substation.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: Vampire electronics suck up to 5 percent of all energy used in the United States.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: Ed Sims is a retired music teacher.

Answer: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone no: _____ Account no: _____

