

PowerLines

YOUR CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS CONNECTION

**Central Electric
Cooperative**

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Spring Safety...Late!

BY MATT BOSHAW
CEO & General Manager

No, the safety isn't late, just the spring. I would normally draft an article about spring safety much earlier than now, but winter won't seem to end. I am writing this article on the final day of March and not only have I not needed to, or been able to, mow my lawn, but I was walking my dog in newly falling snow three days ago. My hope is that spring is finally with us by the time you are reading this. Spring also means that we are all going to go out and start all of those spring rituals like planting gardens and cleaning up our properties and homes. I just want to remind you that the electric lines are still there, and you should take extra care around them. After the harsh winter weather, those facilities may have experienced damage that, although not resulting in a loss of power, may create a hazardous condition.

CEC offers an electric safety program that we present to elementary school students throughout our service territory. If you are interested in this program and would like more information, please contact us at 800-521-0570 and

ask about our Safety City Program, or visit our website. This program is very well received and electric utilities all over the country provide similar presentations. I have had the good fortune to give the presentation many times in Illinois and Oregon and was pleased that we do it here. Sometimes we adults get complacent and don't pay attention to the lessons illustrated in the presentation. You see, every accident depicted in the presentation has unfortunately happened to someone. They are common activities that have led to accidents and injuries simply because the victim wasn't paying attention to the potential hazard of electrical contact. Whenever I give these presentations, I start by reminding everyone of how great it is to have electricity available and that it is only a positive when used correctly and safely.

Electricity is lazy and stupid. I get the same look that you have on your face right now from live audiences when I make that statement, so let me clarify. First, electricity is lazy. How can

something so powerful be lazy? To use electricity to power things, we have to put electrons in motion (current) by taking them from magnetic fields and pushing them along conductors with force (voltage). Just like me being pulled from my comfortable couch and being forced, by my lovely wife, to do some chores, the electrons are not happy about it and want to return to a state of rest. They do this by constantly looking for the easiest or least resistive path to the ground and in the case of most accidents, the path is you. Second, electricity is stupid. Despite all of the amazing things that we are able to do with it; electricity is unable to tell the difference between a wire conductor and you.

All right, enough of the science lesson, what does this mean and what possible concern should it be as we venture out this spring to do those chores? As I mentioned, the harsh winter followed by a significant windstorm and early spring thunderstorms can create conditions that may be hazardous even without causing power outages. The good news is that most electrical contact accidents can be easily avoided with a 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. 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 easier to forget some of the smallest steps. As always, treat any down wire as live. Unlike in the movies energized wires don't always jump around making noise and sparking. In 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.

We work around electricity every day so electrical safety is first, second and third on our minds. For those who don't work with electricity every day, the employees of your Cooperative want to remind you to put electrical safety at the top the chore list given to you by your lovely spouse so that you can get back to that comfortable couch safe and sound.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP

Matthew P. Boshaw	<i>CEO & General Manager</i>
Chester Conti	<i>Director of Finance and Accounting/CFO</i>
Lisa A. Hoover	<i>Director of Member Services</i>
Christopher W. Kossman	<i>Director of Information Technology</i>
Caitlin Kriebel	<i>Director of Human Resources</i>
Fred E. Terwilliger	<i>Assistant General Manager/COO</i>



Schedule a Safety City Presentation




2026 CEC MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT



**Friday
June 12, 2026
3-7 p.m.**

Central Electric Cooperative
716 Route 368
Parker, Pa 16049



RSVP by calling 800.521.0570 or visiting www.central.coop

This document is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

2026 Member Photo Contest

Don't forget to enter CEC's 2026 Photo Contest! The top three winners will receive a prize: a \$100 bill credit for first place, a \$50 bill credit for second place, and a \$25 bill credit for third place.

The photo can be of anything! View something from a different perspective, go somewhere new, be creative. Members must submit their photo before June 5, 2026. Members will vote for the top five photos from June 15 to July 30. Then voting will begin for the top three photos from July 31 to Oct. 16.



By: Tammy Kellogg



By: Rich Polaski

Voting will take place on CEC's website. Members may also vote for the top three photos using a ballot in the September issue of the newsletter. Winning photos will appear on CEC's website and in publications of this newsletter. Winners will be announced in late October. Visit our website for details about rules and to enter!

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

ARE YOU A CO-OP VOTER?



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MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH



Safe Landscaping this Spring

by Izzy Cellucci, Communication Representative

May is the perfect time to put your landscaping plans into action. There's warmer weather, longer days, and plenty of homeowners that cannot wait to get outside. However, there are many people that may not think of the hazards associated with planting, digging or trimming. Since May happens to be National Electrical Safety month, the best way we can celebrate is to plant thoughtfully, be aware of our surroundings, and, above all else, stay safe.

Awareness goes a long way and being safe starts by taking a good look around your yard. Notice the location of any overhead power lines, pad-mount transformers, meter bases, or other electrical equipment on your property.

Observing your surroundings is a necessity when it comes to thoughtful planting. CEC asks members to avoid planting trees, shrubs, or vines too close to equipment to avoid potential hazards. For example, planting a sapling by power lines may seem harmless but can become an issue as it grows over time. If an adult tree is too close, then outages, fires, and severe injuries are much more likely to occur. Choosing the right location benefits you and the plants' overall health. If branches are already touching or are close to power lines, do not attempt to trim them yourself, and instead call a professional.

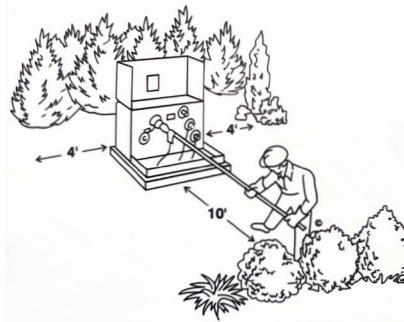
Pad-mount transformers are another piece of equipment that needs clear space around them. This is so

utility crews can access them quickly and easily during maintenance or outages. Most utilities ask you to leave at least 10 feet of open space in front of the transformer and 4 feet on the other sides. If you come across a transformer, it is best not to touch or go near them to avoid any harm.

If your project involves digging, even something as simple as planting a shrub or installing a mailbox, call 811 before you begin. This free service sends utility locators to mark underground lines, so you know where it's safe to dig. Striking an underground electric, gas, or communication line can cause injuries, outages, and extensive repairs. Whatever project you may start, you must contact 811 first, a few days in advance to stay safe.

Taking the time to plan your landscaping ideas protects not only your property, but also your family, your neighbors, and the crews who work to keep your power reliable. CEC wishes you a productive season ahead and that you carry smart habits through this National Electrical Safety month.

Sources: esasafe.com, 811beforeyoudig.com, ure.com



NOTICE

MAINTAIN 10 FEET OF CLEARANCE IN FRONT OF DOORS AND 4 FEET ON THE OTHER SIDES

DO NOT PLACE TREES, SHRUBS OR OTHER OBSTRUCTIONS IN THIS AREA

DO NOT OBSTRUCT THIS AREA

Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.

CEC Sticker: The above shows a notice sticker found on pad-mount transformers to inform members.



Role: Mechanic
Employee Since: May 2012

Employee Spotlight: Jeff Rhoades



What is something you are most proud of? My children.



What was your first job? I enlisted in the Army my senior year of high school.



What is one of your hobbies outside of work? Tractor pulling with my dad.



Do you have any pets? An English Springer Spaniel named Charlie, and two outside cats, Timmy and Tiger.



What is something you've always wanted to try or learn? I would love to know how to program and operate a plasma cutting table and a CNC Lathe.



You're Invited to CEC's Member Appreciation Event

by Izzy Cellucci, Communication Representative

CEC is thrilled to invite our members to the 2026 Member Appreciation Event! Join us at CEC's headquarters in Parker, PA on Friday, June 12, 2026, from 3–7 p.m. for an open house style event dedicated to members. Come at your convenience, explore at your own pace, and enjoy an afternoon filled with entertainment, educational opportunities, family activities, giveaways, bill credits, refreshments, and the chance to meet your board of directors and CEC staff.

Activities

Members will have the opportunity to explore the facility and learn more about the work we do every day. You be able to:

- View CEC's fleet and equipment up close
- Take in electric vehicle information and demonstrations
- Learn about the programs and services available to you as a CEC member

Children can enjoy a variety of activities, including bucket truck rides, giveaways, face painting, photo opportunities, and more.

Entertainment

A live band and car show will be present throughout the event. Members are invited to join our car show. Each car show participant will receive a dash plaque. Members who would like to participate in the car show must register and complete a waiver. Members should register and obtain a waiver by calling the office at 800-521-0570.

Refreshments

Complimentary food and refreshments will be available, including hot dogs, chips, and drinks. Mobile Meadows, a dessert food truck, will also be on-site serving frozen custard and yogurt. Snacks for children will be provided as well.

Arrival and Parking

Upon arrival, members will be directed behind the co-op on Perryville Road. Traffic control and signage will guide you to designated parking areas to help reduce congestion on Route 368. Transportation will be available for members who may need assistance getting from their vehicle to the building. However, members should expect plenty of walking.

Once parked, members will enter through the second floor tunnel. Inside, you'll be greeted at the registration area, receive a registration gift, and have opportunities to win additional prizes throughout the event. You'll also receive a map and a list of activities to help guide your visit.

We hope you can join us for this event! We are excited to provide a behind the scenes look at everything we do at CEC and show our appreciation for our members. If you would like to attend the Member Appreciation Event, please RSVP by filling out the form on our website or call 800-521-0570.

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Kickstart Summer

by Connie Long, Member Energy Specialist

Look, I get it. The first 70-degree Saturday hits, and the urge to rip the cover off the pool and fire up the grill is overwhelming. As your member energy specialist and summer enthusiast, I'm right there with you—I want a burger and to swim as much as anyone. But before you get the party started, I want to make sure your summer oasis doesn't turn into a summer outage.

Since May is Electrical Safety Month, I like to do a walk-through of my own backyard. It's about more than just checking boxes; it's about making sure the fun doesn't get interrupted by something avoidable.

The Pool: Before you even think about the pH levels or which swimsuit to wear, look at your pump and its surroundings. Check your Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs). These are the little buttons on your outlets that pop to cut power if water hits the circuit. If they don't click when you test them, they won't protect you. Also, keep an eye out for any humming sounds from the motor—that's usually a

cry for help (and an increase on your bill).

Lighting & Vibes: We all love those Edison-style string lights, but winter can be brutal on plastic and copper. Run your hand (carefully!) along the cords to feel for cracks or fraying. And if you're still using old-school bulbs, swap them for LEDs. They don't just save money, they stay cool. You don't want a hot bulb resting against a dry gazebo curtain or a tree branch.

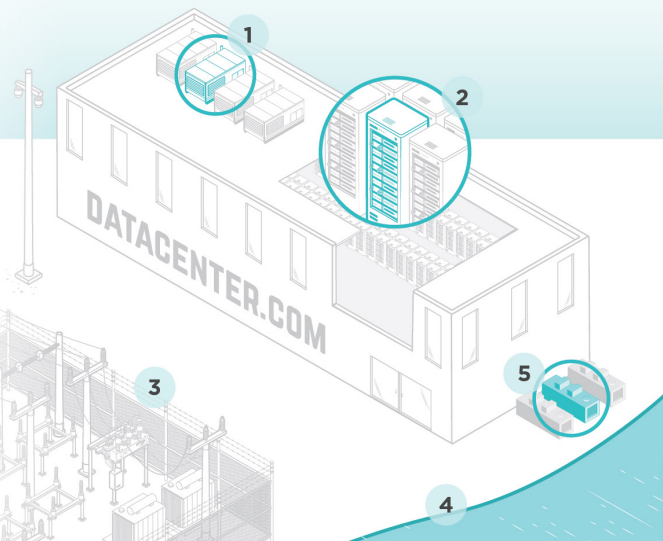
The Grill & The Gear: Keep the grill a solid 10 feet away from the house. And if you're using electric starters or smokers, make sure those cords aren't a trip hazard. If you're trimming branches to clear the view, look up. That 10-foot rule applies to power lines, too—ladders and electricity are an extremely dangerous mix.

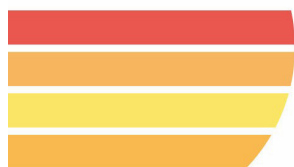
Safety and efficiency aren't just industry buzzwords, they're the foundation of a summer spent enjoying the water instead of troubleshooting a tripped breaker. Do the walkthrough now, so you can kick back later.

Big Data, Bigger Demands

Many companies are choosing rural areas for their data centers because of cheaper land, available power and potential tax breaks. Data centers require huge amounts of electricity to operate, which presents new opportunities and challenges for electric co-ops.

- 1 **HVAC:** Constant cooling is needed to ensure the servers function properly.
- 2 **Servers:** Servers run applications and process data 24/7. One server rack can consume enough electricity to power a small home. A large data center can house thousands of server racks.
- 3 **Infrastructure:** Data centers often require new electrical infrastructure to meet their power needs.
- 4 **Water Source:** Many large data centers are deploying evaporative cooling, which is more efficient than compressor-based systems.
- 5 **Backup Power:** On-site generators keep data centers running during power outages and can also be used to help lower demand when electricity use spikes.





SOLAR ENERGY POP QUIZ

Solar energy is amazing because it allows us to use electricity generated from natural sunlight. Complete the quiz below by matching the solar energy terms in the word bank to the correct description.



Energy Explorers

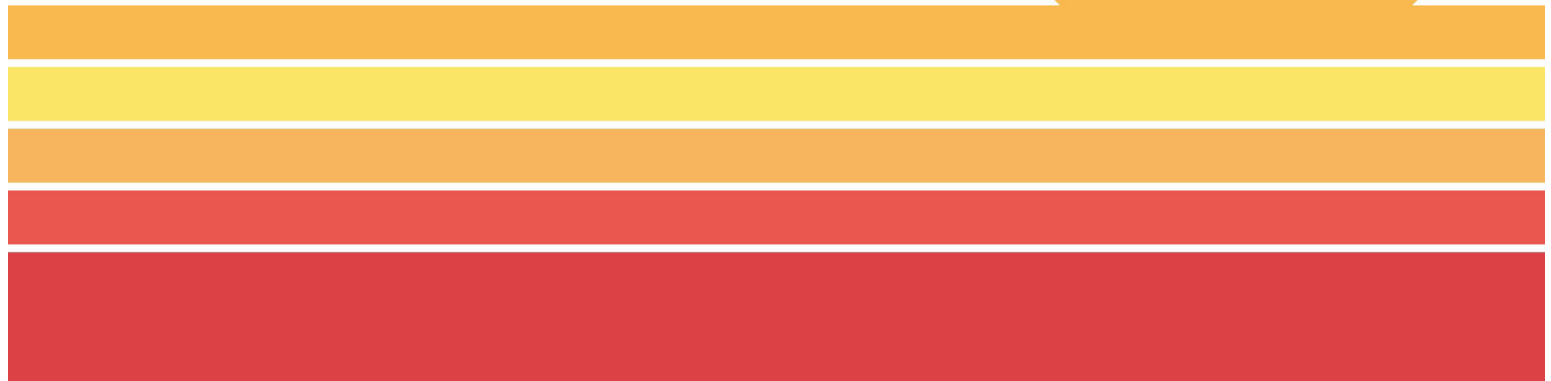
1. _____ A star at the center of our solar system that provides light and heat.
2. _____ Flat devices often placed on rooftops that collect energy from the Sun and help power homes and businesses.
3. _____ Tiny particles of energy that travel through space and reach Earth in about eight minutes.
4. _____ The basic building block inside rooftop equipment that converts sunlight into usable power.
5. _____ The type of energy that runs appliances, lights and electronics in your home.

Word Bank

- A. Solar Cell
- B. Electricity
- C. Solar Panels
- D. Sun
- E. Photons



Answer Key: 1) D 2) C 3) E 4) A 5) B



From the Kitchen of:
Marie Cherrison

RECIPE: **BARBECUE PEANUTS**

Send your own recipe to:

Izzy Cellucci; icellucci@central.coop or mail to P.O. Box 329,
Parker, PA 16049

INGREDIENTS:

1/3 c. barbecue sauce

2 Tbs. butter, melted

1 tsp. garlic powder

1/2 tsp. cayenne pepper

1 jar (16 oz.) dry roasted peanuts



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. In a large bowl, combine the barbecue sauce, butter, garlic powder, and cayenne. Add the peanuts, stir until evenly coated. Transfer to a greased 9x13 baking pan.

2. Bake, uncovered, at 325° for 10 minutes. Spread on waxed paper, cool completely. Store in airtight container. Makes 3 cups. Enjoy!



Central Electric Cooperative



Your Board of Directors

From left (back row): Kenneth Durrett, Vice President, Butler County; Jared McFarland, Forest County; Jody Weaver, President, Clarion County; Robert Smith, Butler County; **(front)** Richard Weaver, Clarion County; Nancy Lendyak, Armstrong County; Althea Smith, Secretary/Treasurer, Venango County; Dana Kellogg, Venango County.

 central.coop/meet-your-directors

MISSION: CEC safely provides reliable and competitively priced electricity to our consumer-members and was established by and is committed to the communities we serve.

716 Route 368, P.O. Box 329, Parker PA 16049
Member Services: 800-521-0570
Outages: 800-282-8610

Newsletter Editor: Izzy Cellucci

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



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IN CONTROL.**

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your account

REPORT

service issues

VIEW AND PAY

your bill

RECEIVE

key notices

MONITOR

usage 24/7

*...all in the palm of your
hand and online.*



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Catch up at www.central.coop

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