

THE MAGAZINE FOR MEMBERS OF CHARITON VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.



living with energy

IN IOWA

DECEMBER 2015

Best Wishes

for a happy,
energy-smart
and safe
holiday!

Win a trio of
LED work lights
See page 5

Improve
indoor air
quality
during cold
weather

Buy your home
a powerful present
the whole
family can use

Co-op members'
special cookie
recipes are
sure to please



In the Community

CVEC participates in Albia merchants' annual trick or treat event

On Friday, Oct. 30, CVEC was a part of the Albia merchants' trick or treat around the town square. Co-op employees, along with CFL Charlie and Bolt the Bucket Truck, were on hand to help pass out candy and glow sticks to all the little ghosts and goblins. ⚡



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Office Hours
Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Closed Saturdays, Sundays and holidays

Telephone Numbers
Days, nights or holidays:
641-932-7126 (local)
or 800-475-1702

Website
www.cvrec.com

We accept



Just for Kids

Teaching safety is top priority at CVEC



Safety is practiced every day by the staff of Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., and the topic is covered for you in every issue of the *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine. Being safe around electricity is something that CVEC is more than willing to share with you.

Each year, CVEC reaches out to local schools to demonstrate the dangers of electricity and how to stay safe when using it. The cooperative performs high-voltage demonstrations in outdoor environments, as well as classroom demonstrations for children in grades 4 through 6.

Children who have participated in one of these safety demos can tell you that safety begins by using your No. 1 safety tool, your brain. Each presentation covers proper safety attire, tools and equipment. We encourage the use

of GFCI and AFCI outlets to protect all the members of the family. In addition we talk about how distance equals safety when working with or around electricity.

Children are taught to stay away from downed power lines, not to climb trees that have grown into power lines and to look up before beginning projects outside. Children also are introduced to an important phone number to remember – 811 – and to always call before digging for a fence, new home, building or other special projects.

During 2015, Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., had the opportunity to educate nearly 500 students at six local schools. If you'd like one of our informative presentations in your school, place of business or service organization, call the cooperative at 641-932-7126. ⚡



There aren't any energy-efficiency federal tax credits that end this year, but the ones on the books will expire at the end of 2016 if Congress doesn't extend them. So, it's not too early to start planning eligible projects for completion next year.

The Residential Renewable Energy Tax Credit offers a 30 percent tax credit on the installation of renewable energy equipment (with no upper limit) and remains in effect through Dec. 31, 2016. It covers equipment such as geothermal heat pumps, solar water heaters and wind technologies. For these categories, a principal residence and second home qualify, and either may be an existing home or new construction.

Go to www.dsireusa.org, www.energystar.gov or www.irs.gov – or consult your tax advisor for the latest updates and filing details.

Rate increase will go into effect February 2016

No one likes to see electric rates increase, but unfortunately, electric utilities – along with many other sectors of the country – are increasingly finding themselves faced with rising costs.

On Nov. 23, 2015, the Board of Directors of Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., approved an increase in rates affecting prices for the electric service you receive. This increase will apply to your usage starting February 2016. Although the effect of the increase in your bill may vary depending upon the type and extent of usage, the total increase will be 5.25 percent, not the 6.75 percent that was passed on to us from Northeast Power and Associated.

Many factors play a part in a utility rate increase, just as you see in price increases at grocery stores and retail stores. The main variables that influenced this increase are the demand,



peak demand and kilowatt-hour cost components from our wholesale power supplier. Our power supplier is experiencing significant increases as a result of the new environmental compliance regulations passed down by the EPA, in addition to increased rail costs.

CVEC is watching these increases very closely by studying long-range forecasts from our generation and transmission power suppliers. Last summer, EPA finalized regulations related to carbon emissions for coal and natural gas electric generating plants and compliance most likely will result in electric rate increases in the years ahead. More information and an official rate increase notice will be sent to every member in the next few weeks.

Your cooperative strives to operate as efficiently as possible. We pledge to continue to work hard to provide reliable service at the lowest possible cost. ⚡

Win a trio of LED work lights!

For a perfect result in any home improvement project, you need a lot of light – and this contractor's pack of LED work lights from Journey's Edge will supply it. Each of the three included lights supplies 1,900 lumens at a bright 6,500K, but uses only 20 watts of electricity. One of the lights comes with a telescoping tripod, while the other two mount on floor stands.



Visit our website, and win!

We're going to give a work light set to one lucky reader this month. Enter the contest by Dec. 31, 2015, at the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website: www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com.

You must be a member of one of Iowa's electric cooperatives to win. There's no obligation associated with entering, we don't share entrant information with anyone and multiple entries from the same account will be disqualified.

12 Days of Holiday Safety

It's easy to make safety a part of your holiday with these tips. Tackle one a day and you're well on your way to a safe New Year!



ESFi
Electric Service Foundation of Iowa

Day 1 What's that noise? Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Make sure everyone knows what to do if they hear them.

Day 5 Ouch! Prevent trips and falls by keeping cords safely along walls and out of doorways and high traffic areas.

Day 9 Nice and warm. Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn—decorations, trees, gifts, and curtains.

Day 2 What a shocker! Before use, inspect all electrical lights, decorations, and extension cords for damage.

Day 6 Kids eat the darndest things! Avoid putting lights, metal hooks, breakable ornaments, and other small decorations within reach of young children.

Day 10 Can't touch this! Consider installing tamper-resistant outlets/receptacles to prevent kids from inserting objects into the slots.

Day 3 Two's company, three's a crowd. Do not overload outlets with too many decorations or devices.

Day 7 Thirsty? Keep your Christmas tree stand full of water. A fresh, green tree poses less of a fire hazard than a dry tree.

Day 11 Escape Route: Share your family fire escape plan with overnight guests.

Day 4 Is it working? Test your ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) to make sure they're protecting you.

Day 8 Make a wish! Blow out the candles before leaving a room or going to bed.

Day 12 Hot stuff! Keep children away from cooking areas; use back burners and turn pot handles in away from little hands.

There's no greater gift you can give your family than a safe and happy holiday! Learn more at holidaysafety.org.

Meet next year's Youth Tour intern

The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives again this year has secured grant funds to enable a former Youth Tour participant to go on the 2016 Youth Tour of Washington, D.C., as a volunteer/intern. The student will help Youth Tour director Shelly York in making final preparations for the trip, providing leadership while on the tour, updating the different Youth Tour social media platforms and managing the appropriate follow-up



activities after the trip. Britta Becker, a 2013 Youth Tour alumni sponsored by Franklin REC, applied for and accepted the position. She's a student at Iowa State University, pursuing a degree in family and consumer sciences education and studies. "Looking back at my high school career, Youth Tour was one of my most memorable experiences," Britta said. "It is a trip of a lifetime." ⚡



Look what can happen when you enter one of our contests!

Thank you to all our members who stopped by CVEC's office Oct. 12-31 to help us celebrate Co-op Month. Members were able to sign up to win one of 10 CVEC gift bags that each included a \$15 Energy Gift Certificate.

The lucky winners were Cecil Halterman, James Clark Jr., Jenni Grubb, Alexandria Post, T.L. Archibald, Nick Kipfer, Ruthann Thomas, Kelly Deevers, Debbi Colwell and Steve Thomas. Congratulations! ⚡

Important NEW YEAR Resolutions . . .

That don't involve diet or exercise!



1. Make sure outlets have GFCIs in the kitchen, bathroom & laundry
2. Replace frayed electrical cords
3. Check for loose-fitting plugs
4. Replace missing or broken wall plates
5. Check for overloaded outlets
6. Make sure light bulb wattage matches the fixture requirements
7. Have an electrician check outlets that are warm/discolored



2090 Highway 5 South • Albia, IA 52531
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Learn how to keep your family safe at:



Have you used your Co-op Connections Card today?



Office Closings

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Christmas
Dec. 24-25

New Year's Day
Jan. 1