

# living with energy

IN IOWA



Chariton Valley  
Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

JANUARY 2018

It's time to apply for the 2018 Iowa Rural Electric Youth Tour: The deadline is Feb. 28! ▶ See page 12

## Designer electricity

will give you more control



Save time and energy cooking with small appliances

We talk with EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt

Make the resolution today to switch to LEDs – and save!

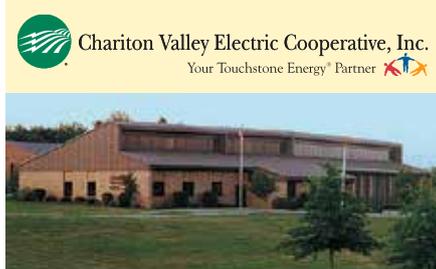
Visit our website at [www.cvrec.com](http://www.cvrec.com)

## Board approves \$500,000-plus in billing credits to members



As a member-owner of a not-for-profit electric cooperative, you share in the profits or margins that remain after all expenses and/or reserves are paid. Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors was pleased to approve a return of excess margins for the second year in a row in December – totaling more than \$500,000! The 75 percent billing discount was based on electric usage for the month of November and appeared on your December billing statement as a kWh discount.

Thank you for being a valued member-owner of Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. We look forward to serving you in 2018! ⚡



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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

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## How will we serve you better in 2018?

BY BRYON STILLEY

It's amazing what we learn through listening and observation. Listening improves understanding, builds trust, strengthens relationships and fosters cooperation. It's also crucial for collaboration and success.

That's why Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., still loves face time with our members. Our annual meeting is a social event for our whole co-op family. We hope you'll make plans now to join us in August at Honey Creek Resort for an evening of co-op business, fun and prizes.

So, how will we serve you better in 2018? The same way many of

us try to serve our community, society and families better each day – by listening. In our offices, on telephones, through social media exchanges and in our face-to-face meetings, we're ready to listen.



When you have questions about energy efficiency, electrical service or any of our products or programs, just ask us. When we know just what you want, we're in a better position to deliver successful results. So, drop in and see us, we're always glad to hear from you! ⚡

Bryon Stilley is the general manager of Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

IN THE NEWS



Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., once again participated in Albia's Victorian Stroll.

This year's window theme was "Chariton Valley Electric's Candy Store." The window consisted of a candy counter filled with gumballs constructed by director Kenny VandenBerg, along with many other candy-related items in the window

donated by CVEC members Tim and Roxy Lockard of Russell.

Vintage candy boxes, scales, signs, photos and jars loaned by the Lockards were used to create an authentic Victorian candy store feel. CVEC would like to thank Tim and Roxy for graciously letting us use their items for the night. Without their help, CVEC wouldn't have won Judge's Choice 1st Place! ⚡

Photo: Jesse Simmons

# Make the resolution today to switch to LEDs – and save!

A new year calls for updated lightbulbs. There's no need to use bulbs with a twist; instead, light-emitting diodes (LEDs) can help you switch on the savings.

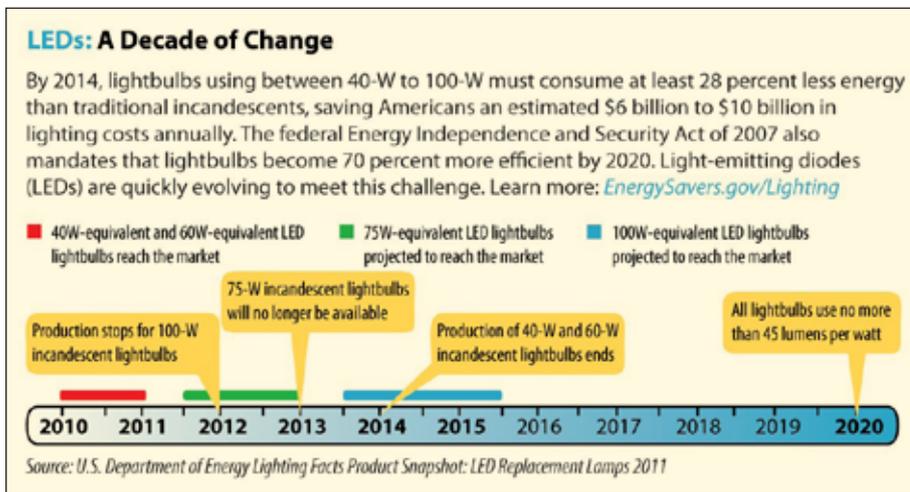
LED lightbulbs offer several benefits:

- They last longer than other types of bulbs – perhaps for decades.
- The energy to use LEDs could be substantially less than that of compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) or other fluorescents.
- With no mercury content like CFLs, LEDs are more environmentally friendly.
- LEDs are rugged and more

resistant to breakage.

- LEDs perform well in cold climates, especially outside.
- LEDs can be dimmed and produce a more pleasing light, from warm white to bright sunlight.

Some people avoid LEDs because their price tags exceed those of old-style incandescent lightbulbs. However, the prices for LEDs have fallen dramatically during the past couple of years, and their true value lies in the lifetime of the bulbs. In fact, you'd need to buy about 50 traditional incandescent bulbs to last as long as one LED. ⚡



# Members help members by supporting RECare

Thank you to our members who recently contributed to Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative's RECare program, which was established for members to help other members weatherize their homes and pay their winter heating bills. We're proud of these members who demonstrated one of the Seven Cooperative Principles: Concern for Community. Your generosity will go a long way this winter season! ⚡



# Win a programmable thermostat and reduce your heating bills this winter!



Here's proof that you don't have to spend a lot to have a big impact on your energy bill. This Honeywell 7-Day Programmable Thermostat is reasonably priced at \$100, but we've seen it (and comparable thermostats) sale-priced as low as \$50. It should pay for itself in just a few months – and continue saving you money during the cooling season.

The thermostat is easy to install, and it's compatible with most forced-air furnaces and heat pumps with electric backup. The backlit touchscreen display includes a filter change reminder and vacation hold programs too.

The unit is available at hardware and big-box stores. For details, visit [yourhome.honeywell.com](http://yourhome.honeywell.com). ⚡

## Visit our website, and win!

To enter this month's contest for the Honeywell thermostat, go to the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at [www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com](http://www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com) and complete the entry form no later than Jan. 31, 2018.

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.

The winner of the Nest Thermostat E in the November issue was Betty Waddington from Prairie Energy Cooperative.

## Consider running for the CVEC Board of Directors

Have you ever wondered how you could get more involved in *your* electric cooperative, but didn't know how – or what you could do?

Serving as a director is a wonderful opportunity to expand your horizons



by learning more about the electric utility industry, gain knowledge of how a cooperative operates, become more involved in national and state organizations, work closely with local and state legislative representatives and, most importantly, be a voice for all of the members of CVEC.

A director is expected to attend the monthly board meetings and is encouraged to attend various training meetings held throughout the term of director. Because the board is responsible for establishing the policies and rates under which the cooperative operates, it's important that directors commit sufficient time to read and learn about the electric utility industry and be familiar with the information and financial reports from the cooperative and other state and national associations.

If a director position isn't the right fit for you, another option might be serving on the Nominating Committee. This is a key role in the election process, as this committee nominates director candidates for election at the cooperative's Annual Meeting. Committee members are required to be members of Chariton Valley Electric, canvas a district for a nominee to be placed on the ballot and to attend at least one meeting of the Nominating Committee held in early June to officially nominate candidates for election.

If you're interested in being nominated, would like to nominate someone or would like to serve on the nominating committee, contact any current board member or call CVEC at 641-932-7126. ⚡

## It's time to apply for the 2018 Iowa Rural Electric Youth Tour



Iowa's local electric co-ops believe in youth. That's why CVEC sponsors the Iowa Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. – a weeklong summer trip that allows participants to explore our nation's historic sites and see the government in action.

### Who can attend?

Youth Tour participants are chosen by their cooperatives. High school students typically are eligible to apply during their sophomore, junior or senior years.

### Is it fun?

You bet – an action-packed week awaits! Tour historic sites. Meet congressional leaders. Spend a day on Capitol Hill. Explore the Smithsonian museums. Take a cruise

on the Potomac River. Make new friends from Iowa and across the nation.

### Don't miss the trip of a lifetime!

Become one of hundreds of Iowa youth who have experienced Youth Tour. You'll be glad you did.

### When does it happen?

June 8-14, 2018

### How do you apply?

For a Youth Tour application, click on the Community tab and then the Youth Tour link on our website at [www.cvrec.com](http://www.cvrec.com), call Becky Teno at 641-932-7126 or ask your guidance counselor at your high school. Applications must be postmarked no later than Feb. 28, 2018. ⚡

## 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



Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Learn how to keep your family safe at:

