

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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From the General Manager/CEO



The power behind your power

By Mark Morrison

AS APRIL arrives, it brings with it the showers that produce spring flowers. It also heralds the beginning of a potentially stormy season that can include power outages. While New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) strives to provide reliable electricity to our consumer-members, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there is a group of professionals that spring into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst — co-op linemen.

One of the most dangerous jobs

Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions, linemen often must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heavy equipment to restore power. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S., linemen must perform detailed tasks next to high-voltage power lines. To help keep them safe, linemen wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn to protect them from electrical shock.

While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job more complex.

In addition to the highly visible tasks linemen perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. In our community, New Enterprise REC linemen are responsible for keeping 375 miles of lines working, in order to bring power to your home and our local community 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays, or personal considerations.

While some of the tools that linemen use have changed over the years, namely the use of technology, the dedication to the job has not. Being a lineman is not a glamorous profession. At its essence, it is extremely dangerous, requiring them to work near high-voltage lines in the worst of conditions, at any times of the day or night. During ice storms, thunderstorm or high winds, crews often work around the clock to restore power. While April is known for spring showers, there is also a time set aside to “thank a lineman.”

So during April, if you see a lineman, please pause to say “Thank you” to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on, regardless of the conditions. 

Students shadow relatives on the job

By Rachel Mickle
Senior, Northern Bedford County
High School
Writer, Morrisons Cove Herald

THIS YEAR'S eighth-grade class from Northern Bedford County Middle School shadowed their relatives at different occupations on Feb. 2. Some job shadowing experiences took place locally, while other students ventured out of the cove for their job shadowing experiences.

Eighty-eight percent of the students in the class of 2022 went out into the community to participate in Groundhog Job Shadow Day (GJSD). This event provides students with an opportunity to see what a normal day of work is like. It's also a great way to show the students how the things they are learning during their years of schooling will help them when they go into the workforce. Students went to various places all around our area to see what a day at work is like, including Kennametal, Roots in the Cove, the Everett Foodliner, Homewood at Martinsburg, New Enterprise Stone & Lime, and UPMC Altoona.

Clay McInay spent the day at New Enterprise Rural Electric with his mom, Bobbi McInay, a member service repre-



THIS IS WHAT I DO: New Enterprise REC member and employee Bobbi McInay, left, explains the procedure for taking a payment at the front counter to her son, Clay.

sentative for the cooperative.

"I helped my mom at the counter and I took payments, I copied things, and I worked with people who came into the office," Clay reports. "I learned the responsibilities you need to work and how you cannot be childish in the workplace. I loved the lunch break and working with customers."

After his experience, Clay thinks he might consider a similar job in the future.

Andrea Musselman stayed at the school to shadow her mom, Kristi Musselman, who teaches eighth-grade reading and seventh-grade American history.

"I loved having her (Andrea) with me and showing her all the behind-the-scenes stuff," Musselman comments. "She was so interested and helpful. It was a great day."

Andrea enjoyed spending the day with

her mom, as well.

"I graded papers, created a bulletin board and learned about different types of software that my mom uses," she reports. "I helped her organize and file tests, we co-planned with a learning support teacher that my mom works with, and I also helped her plan a genre unit that she will use this week in class. My favorite part of the day was grading tests because it was interesting and something I had never done before."

Even though Andrea does not believe she will pursue a career as a teacher, it was a great experience for her. She is interested in going into the animal sciences field.

"I absolutely believe days like these are beneficial to these students. It gives them a glimpse of real life and hopefully makes them realize how much work goes into being successful," Kristi Musselman says. "Having hands-on experience will help these students choose a direction they would like to go in thinking and planning for their futures." 🌞

This article was published in The Morrisons Cove Herald on Feb. 22, 2018.



SHADOWING MOM: Kristi Musselman, New Enterprise REC member, watches her daughter, Andrea, work on software Musselman uses as a teacher at Northern Bedford Middle School.

Changes to disconnection for non-payment policy

Effective January 2018, New Enterprise REC has changed a number of things for any account disconnected for non-payment.

- ▶ **Reconnection of service will only occur during normal business hours, Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Meters will not be reconnected on holidays that fall on Friday. Payments must be in our office by 2 p.m.; otherwise, service will be reconnected the next business day.**
- ▶ **No cash will be accepted at the door. Only MasterCard or Visa can be accepted by calling or coming to the office to make the payment.**

Should your meter be disconnected, a door hanger will be left with the amount you need to pay to be reconnected. Cash, MasterCard or Visa can be used as payment by coming to the office. No agreements can be made once the meter is disconnected.

When collecting at your door

No cash will be accepted at the door. Only MasterCard or Visa can be accepted by calling or coming to the office.

As in the past, a \$125 collection fee will be charged for collecting payment at your door. So, call before the disconnection date to avoid this charge.

If you are unable to pay the full past-due balance, call Brawna at 814-766-3221 or 800-270-3177, extension 4602, to set a payment agreement up. Once an agreement is reached, it must be followed as stated to prevent disconnection. If a payment is missed or a partial payment is made, your meter will be disconnected.

Safe digging

About 811

- ▶ 811 is the national “Call Before You Dig” phone number. It was created to help prevent people from coming into contact with underground utility lines during digging projects.
- ▶ The first step in safe digging is to call 811 — before starting any digging project, make sure to call 811.
- ▶ Make the call a few days before you plan to begin a digging project. It takes a few business days for a professional to come mark your utilities with flags and/or spray paint.
- ▶ Make sure to tell the operator where you plan to dig and what type of work you will be doing. The 811 operator will route you to a local utility-locating service.
- ▶ A professional will be sent to your digging location to mark the areas where public utility lines are buried, free of charge.

What utilities are buried underground

- ▶ Electricity is not the only utility that

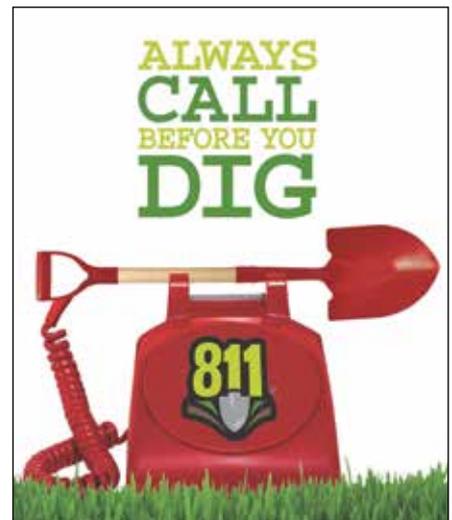
can be located underground. Gas, water, sewer, communications and telephone lines can also be buried.

For homeowners and contractors

- ▶ Even if you previously had utilities located by calling 811, it is best to call before every digging project. Underground utilities can shift, and it is important to be certain of where they are before putting a shovel in the ground.
- ▶ Make sure all utilities are marked before beginning a digging project and that you are wearing all of the proper protective gear.
- ▶ There is no project too small or task too menial that you don't have to take the proper precautions before a digging project.
- ▶ Remember, other people and businesses may also rely on these utilities buried in the yard.
- ▶ Always respect the utility markings, and dig with care.
- ▶ If you accidentally come in contact with an underground utility, do not bury the problem. Your first priority should be evacuating the area for

safety. It can be difficult to locate exactly where a problem is after the damage occurred and was buried. Damage to some underground utilities can cause dangers and inconveniences miles away from the actual site of the damage.

- ▶ Small nicks in underground wires can be expensive, but necessary, to fix. If you nick an underground utility, notify New Enterprise REC. Do not attempt to fix the problem yourself. ☀



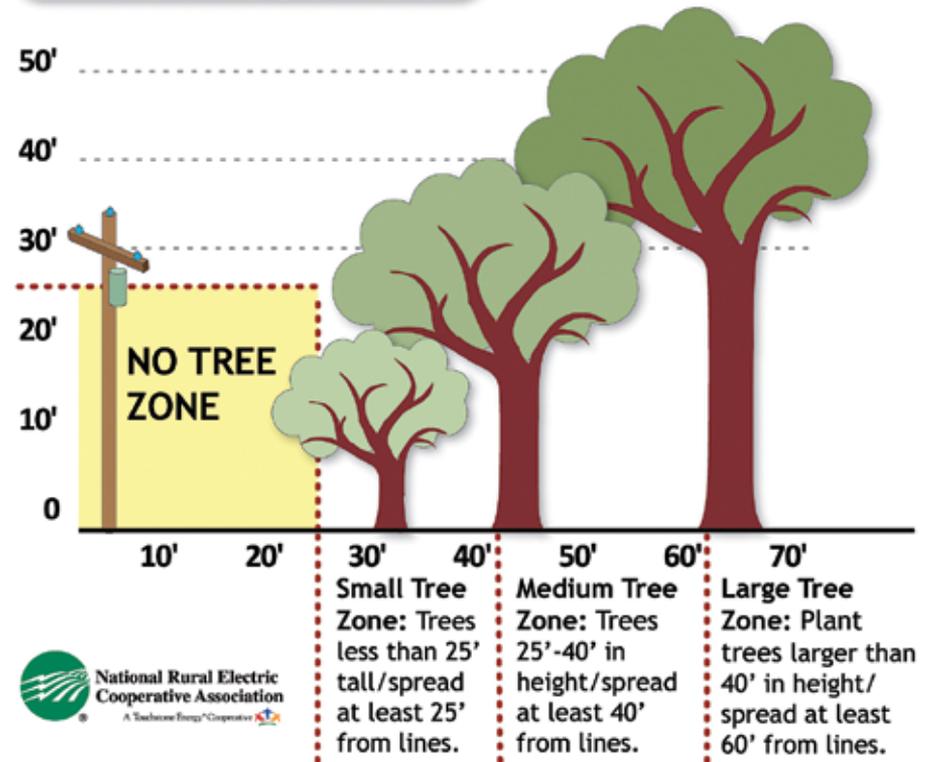
Choose the right tree for the right place

NOW THAT warm weather is here, many homeowners are back in their yards and gardens, planting flowers, vegetables and even trees. Whether you are planting trees to provide a windbreak, shade, reduce carbon in the environment or to beautify your landscape, New Enterprise REC reminds you of the importance of planting tall-growing trees safely away from power lines.

Choosing the right tree for the right place is crucial, especially when it comes to electricity. Trees and wood conduct electricity and can create a safety hazard if they grow too close to electric lines. Power outages or momentary interruptions can occur when branches touch overhead lines. Electrical arcing and sparking from a wire to a nearby branch also can cause fires. No trees should be planted within 20 feet of electric lines.

To avoid having trees from being trimmed back in the future, plant them at least 50 feet away from the power lines.

Tree Planting Guide



Some tips to consider:

- ▶ Deciduous trees shed their leaves during the winter. These trees provide shade and block heat during hotter months. By dropping their leaves in the fall, they allow sunlight in the colder months.
- ▶ Plant deciduous trees on the south and west sides of your home.
- ▶ Evergreens keep their needles year around and serve as a windbreak to save energy during the heating seasons.
- ▶ Do not plant evergreens on the south or west side of your home as they would block sunlight during the winter. These trees also provide shade during summer.

With proper planning, you can have a variety of beautiful trees without having to worry about them conflicting with power lines in the future.

When planting trees remember the

following:

1. Be sure to call the “Call Before You Dig” number, 811, before digging a hole to plant the tree. The utilities in your area will mark any underground wire to ensure your safety.
2. Avoid planting trees near a power line. Should you be planting near the electric wires, visualize the tree at its full height and width. It needs to be at least 20 feet away from the lines when fully mature (be sure to allow for wind sway).
3. Do not plant near underground utility services. Tree roots can grow to interfere with underground pipes, cables and wires. Future repairs to these facilities also could damage the health and beauty of nearby plants and trees.
4. Keep areas around electric meters, transformers or other electrical equipment free of any vegetation that could limit our access.

Trees and safety

Follow these safety tips:

- ▶ Look up! If you see a wire in the area where you want to work, call New Enterprise REC.
- ▶ Don't build a tree house in trees with power lines in them or near them.
- ▶ Teach children to not play in or around trees near the power lines.
- ▶ Don't prune a limb that is near or touching a wire. Tree limbs contain water and can conduct electricity.
- ▶ If possible, let a professional do your tree trimming.
- ▶ Although the “service” wire (from the transformer to the connection at your house) usually is insulated, never consider it safe to work around. The insulation can be worn, creating a hazard.
- ▶ Remember that metal ladders and other tree-trimming equipment are excellent conductors of electricity. Stay clear of wires. ⚡