

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



Get to know your co-op network

The power behind your power

By Rick L. Eichelberger

EVERY DAY, New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative is hard at work to make sure all of our members have the electric power they need at the best possible price. And behind the scenes, we are working with a network of cooperatives to make that happen.

Along with 13 other distribution co-ops in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative is a part of Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc., our wholesale power supplier. All 14 of those Pennsylvania and New Jersey cooperatives banded together in 1946 to create Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. so that we would have more control over power supply and pricing.

It also takes a lot of money to run an electric co-op, so when we need to borrow capital, we turn to either the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) or CoBank. Both of these organizations are also cooperatives. CFC is owned by electric co-ops throughout the country, and CoBank is owned by electric and agricultural co-ops nationwide.

As you know, every month we generate an electric bill that we send to you either electronically or through regular mail. We use National Information Solutions Cooperative to ensure we can apply the latest technology, help lower your energy costs and send timely, accurate bills to you.

No business can operate without several different types of insurance, such as general liability, auto and worker's

compensation. So once again, along with other electric cooperatives across the country, we are members of Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange. This allows us to maintain reliable coverage at an affordable price.

It also takes a whole lot of "stuff" to operate an electric co-op, such as poles, wires, transformers and many other items that you may not see. This is why we partnered with other co-ops to create United Utility Supply. The power of this co-op allows us to have quick access to all the materials we need at the best price.

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative is also a member of Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, a nationwide alliance of 750 local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives. Our participation allows us access to a wealth of informational materials. It also allows us to benchmark our performance in comparison with other co-ops so we can learn from others as we constantly strive to serve you better.

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative is one of 838 electric distribution cooperatives serving an estimated 42 million people in 47 states. Each of these electric systems is governed by a board of directors elected from the membership, which sets policies and procedures.

So, while you are a member of one electric co-op, you are actually connected to many other co-ops. And being connected to this cooperative network ensures your needs are met in the most efficient and cooperative way possible. 

Memory lives on in Buddy's Food Bank

By Brawna L. Sell

WHEN you look back 20 or even 50 years from now, what do you hope you will have accomplished in your life? For some people, the greatest joy would be to see that they have helped others. These people don't expect a pat on the back or to hear "GREAT JOB!" from people. Their satisfaction comes from seeing someone who didn't have food, clothing, or money to pay a bill, be able to feed their family, put clothes on their backs, or pay a bill.

Myrtle Lake from Harrisonville is one of these people. More than 18 years ago, Myrtle saw a need in her community. A need for a food bank so people having a hard time could get food to

be able to survive. She decided to start Buddy's Food Bank in memory of Myrtle and Eugene's son, Philip, who passed away from leukemia when he was 12.

Kindness:

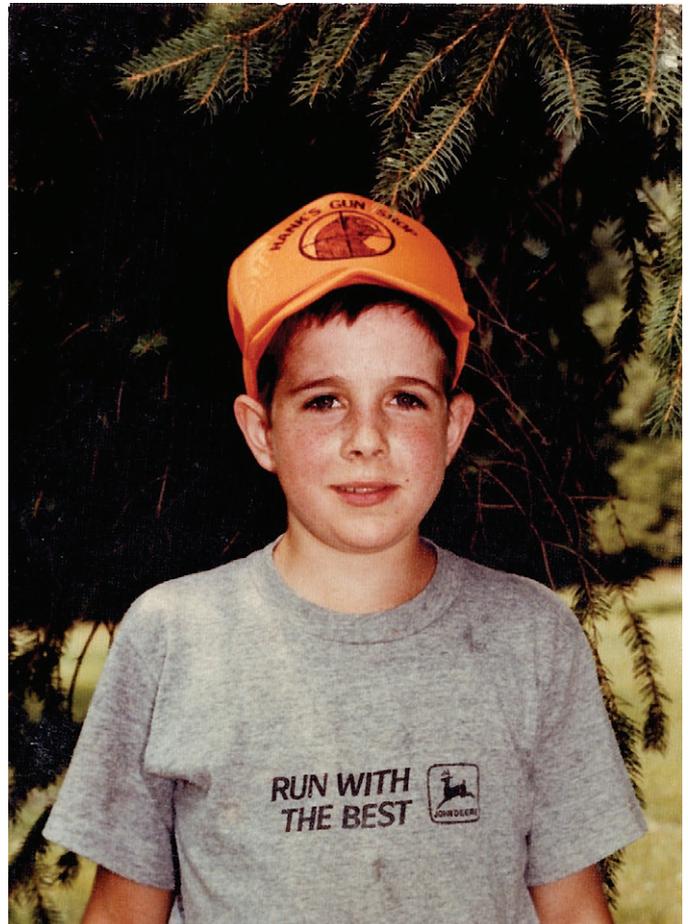
One of the greatest gifts you can bestow upon another. If someone is in need, lend them a helping hand. Do not wait for a thank you, true kindness lies within the act of giving without the expectation of something in return.

Buddy's Food Bank receives no government help. Myrtle works doing elder care so she can provide money for the food bank. She has purchased a new vehicle to use for getting sup-

plies. In addition to money from Myrtle, the food bank receives donations from individuals and businesses. Each year, Modern Woodmen of America works something out with the food bank to help with supplies.

In 2015, as well as the past few years, turkeys were purchased and given out for Thanksgiving. The Giant Food Store in McConnellsburg donated gift cards to apply to the turkey purchase.

Recently, a hog was purchased by Myrtle, and her son-in-law and daughter, John and Jeannie Schetrompf, raised and butchered it. The sausage it provided was given to people coming to the food bank.



MEMORIES: Buddy's Food Bank was started in memory of Philip Lake. Philip passed away from leukemia when he was 12.

Someone makes a trip to Chambersburg to the bakery each Friday for baked goods — some weeks they pick up a lot of baked goods, while other weeks they don't get as many.

Myrtle always keeps an eye open for sales. When there is a good sale, she will buy cases of food. The best items for donations are non-perishable items with a long shelf life. Suggested donations that are always needed are pasta, canned vegetables and boxed foods. (Be sure to check the expiration dates on boxes before purchasing them.)

Buddy's Food Bank is located at Myrtle's home at 2216 Pump Station Road, Harrisonville. There are no set hours. If you are in need of food, give Myrtle a call and she will set up a time to meet you. Her cellphone number is 717-552-0848. Should you get her voice mail, leave a message with your name and phone number. She will be sure to call you back.

Why not help Myrtle or a food bank in your area feed your neighbors in need? 🌟

Some items to donate

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Peanut butter | 100 percent juice |
| Beans | Canned fruit in 100% juice |
| Oatmeal | Canned meat (tuna, chicken, etc.) |
| Rice | Canned vegetables |
| Pasta | Low-sugar cereal |

Top five energy users in your home

A starting point for savings

By Anne Prince

WHILE most homeowners would like to be more energy efficient and save money, often it feels overwhelming because many people don't know where to start. How can the average family use less energy, lower their utility bill and still meet their daily energy needs? To help jumpstart your effort, it is useful to know what the top energy users are in your home. With this knowledge, you can choose a path that works best for your family.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Agency, the top five energy users in U.S. homes are:

1. Space cooling
2. Space heating
3. Water heating
4. Lighting
5. Refrigeration

Adjust the temperature

Together, home heating and cooling use the most energy and take the biggest bite out of your energy budget. On the bright side, there are ways you can achieve at least 10 percent savings by taking a few simple low-cost or no-cost steps.

- ▶ During cold weather, set your ther-

mostat to 68 degrees Fahrenheit.

- ▶ During warm weather, the recommended indoor temperature is 78 degrees Fahrenheit.
- ▶ Cleaning the filters of your HVAC system can cut costs from 5 to 15 percent.
- ▶ Clean the coils around your electric baseboard heater to maintain maximum efficiency.
- ▶ Caulk and weather-strip around windows and doors to prevent heat from escaping to the outdoors.

No matter what the climate or time of year, proper use of a programmable thermostat can save you 10 percent on your monthly utility bill.

Shine the light on savings

Take a fresh look at the lighting in your home. If you still use incandescent lighting, your lightbulbs are operating at only 25 percent energy efficiency. Replacing your home's five most frequently used bulbs with Energy Star-certified LEDs can save you \$75 per year. Another easy way to save is to always turn lights off in rooms that are not being used.

Water heating efficiency

Just as it is energy-wise to insulate your roof, wall or floor, it also pays to wrap your hot water heater with an insulating blanket. This is all the more critical if you have an older unit. Make sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions. For additional efficiency and savings, insulate exposed hot water lines and drain one to two gallons of water from the bottom of

your tank annually to prevent sediment build-up.

Put cold hard cash back in your wallet

If your refrigerator was purchased before 2001, chances are it uses 40 percent more energy than a new Energy Star model. If you are considering an appliance update, a new Energy Star refrigerator uses at least 15 percent less energy than non-qualified models and 20 percent less energy than required by current federal standards. Regardless of the age of your fridge, there are additional steps you can take to save energy and money. For example, don't keep your refrigerator too cold. The Department of Energy recommends temperatures of 35 – 38 degrees Fahrenheit for the fresh food compartment and 0 degrees Fahrenheit for separate freezers (used for long-term storage).

By understanding how your home uses energy, you can determine the best ways to modify energy use and keep more money in your wallet. ☀

Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

What to do during an outage

Providing you with reliable electric service is our No. 1 priority. Unfortunately, there are times the power does go off for numerous reasons. What should you do when your power goes out?

- ▶ **Check your fuses or breakers;**
- ▶ **Check with your neighbors to see if they have power;**
- ▶ **Call New Enterprise REC at 814-766-3221 or 800-270-3177; press 3 to report the outage;**
- ▶ **After hours, leave a message and the person on call will be contacted. Be sure to leave the account name, 911 service address and a phone number where you can be reached. Employees on call will do their best to return your call, although during a large outage it is impossible to return all calls. Please be patient with us as we restore your power as quickly and safely as possible; and**
- ▶ **Let the co-op know if you see any problems such as a broken pole, lines down, trees or limbs on the electric lines, etc.**

Safe Electricity® Storm Safety Kit

-  Drinking water & food
-  Blankets, pillows & clothing
-  Basic first-aid supplies
-  Prescriptions
-  Basic toiletries
-  Flashlights
-  Battery-operated radio
-  Battery-operated clock
-  Extra supply of batteries
-  Phone
- Cash and credit cards
- Emergency numbers
- Important documents (in a waterproof container)
- Toys, books & games
- Baby supplies
- Pet supplies

KIDZcorner

This year is “leap year” — February 29 is the special day. Did you know that leap year only happens once every four years? Here are 10 fun facts about leap year:

10. Leap year = Extra day in the year

A leap year consists of 366 days, as opposed to a common year, which has 365 days.

9. Every four years

Leap year happens every four years, so, after this year, the next time Feb. 29 will exist on our calendars will be 2020.

8. History of leap year

Ancient Egyptians were smart and figured out that the solar calendar and the man-made calendar didn't match up. It takes the Earth 365 days to travel around the sun, but the Egyptians realized that it's “365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 46 seconds, to be exact.” So the extra time amounts to an extra day on our calendar every four years – leap year. Julius Caesar officially added the extra day into Roman calendars 2,000 years ago.

7. Proposals

Women are traditionally allowed and even encouraged to propose to men on Feb. 29. This tradition dates all the way back to fifth-century Ireland.

6. Leap year birthdays

There are about 4 million people in the world who were born on Feb. 29; the chances of having a Feb. 29 birthday are 1 in 1,461.

5. Leaplings

Those born on Feb. 29 are considered “leaplings,” who celebrate their birthdays on either Feb. 28 or March 1 during a non-leap year.

4. Leap year babies

Leap year babies are considered to have “unusual talents” and personalities reflecting their special status. The Chinese believe leap year babies are difficult to raise and unlucky.

3. Unlucky marriage

In Greece, it's said to be unlucky for couples to marry during a leap year, and especially on Feb. 29.

2. Leap year movie

If you want to learn more about leap year, there's a movie starring Amy Adams that features all the traditions of leap year. Check it out.

1. Celebrate leap year

Since leap year and leap day only happen once every four years, let's celebrate. One obvious way is to celebrate your birthday if you're a leap day baby, but anyone can CELEBRATE leap year on Feb. 29.

Home wiring over the hill? Consider easy upgrades to boost safety

Nothing has the charm of an older home on a family farm or a cute cottage in a historic downtown district. But cosmetic and structural issues are often packaged with the cozy charm.

When upgrading your home, a fresh coat of paint and updated fixtures may come to mind. But what about hiring a professional to update the wiring behind a switch plate or outlet? Do you know the hidden dangers of aged wiring in your home? Don't take on wiring problems yourself – electrical upgrades often require a professional who knows what inspections and permits are needed. There are a few clues to find out if your home's electric network needs a professional switch.

- 1. Get grounded.** What is black, white and sends electricity all over? An old home's wiring. Before the mid-1960s, homes had two types of wires: neutral and hot. A grounding wire was added for safety in the 1960s. Three-pronged outlets are a clue (but not a certainty) that your wiring may be grounded; use an outlet circuit tester to confirm.
- 2. Type of wiring.** From the late 1880s to the 1930s, home wiring was bare or covered with sturdy cloth. During the 1940s, rubber-insulated, steel cables were introduced. In the 1950s, PVC insulation was an option, and over the last 30 years, plastic sheaths set the standard. While most types of insulation still function today, cloth or rubber sheaths break down and crumble over time and must be replaced, especially if you're renovating.
- 3. Copper versus Aluminum:** No matter the wrapping, copper wiring is preferred. In the 1970s, the high cost of copper led to aluminum wire use; some builders improperly used circuits created for copper

wiring. Fire risk increases in homes with both copper and aluminum wiring. Use only aluminum-approved switches, outlets and other accessories if your home has aluminum wiring. All wiring degrades over time; it will degrade faster with poor insulation or if too much current flows through the circuit. If your home's wiring is more than 50 years old, consider an upgrade.

- 4. Plugs fall out of outlets easily.** Loose plugs are a high fire danger. Older outlets that have lost their grip need to be replaced. Luckily this upgrade is affordable.
- 5. Not enough outlets.** The increasing use of chargers for phones and many other electronic devices means outlets are in high demand, especially in older homes where outlets are not as plentiful. A lack of outlets can result in overuse of extension cords and power strips. Be sure to use quality, 14-gauge or thicker cords that are approved by Underwriters Laboratories (UL). Never overload an outlet. Overloading can cause heat, leading to fire risk. Consider hiring a licensed electrician to add outlets to your home.
- 6. Danger in wet areas.** GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) outlets are now required in areas around water, like near a kitchen or bathroom sink or outdoors. But in older homes, GFCIs may not have been installed. It is fairly simple to replace old receptacles with GFCIs; hire a professional to upgrade outlets near water.
- 7. Wind causes lights to blink.** If you notice your lights blinking on windy days, it may be due to worn wiring in the weatherhead (where overhead lines enter your home). Contact your electric co-op to check weatherhead wiring.

Source: *This Old House*, Underwriters Laboratories